Replacing a Section of Sidewalk

Cool Tools at the NHS

Extreme How-To®

The Enthusiast's Guide to Home Improvement

<EXTREME> OUTDOOR COOKING CENTER

PLUS:

HANDY **DRYWALL TOOLS**

NEW PRODUCTS FOR **OLD DECKS**

CIRCULAR SAW BLADES UP CLOSE

September 2008
www.extremehowto.com
$4.99US $4.99CAN
09>
0 09281 03600 5

RAPID TOOLS™

TAKE A BITE OUT OF YOUR WORK!

NEW!

Rapid Shark® Combination
Utility Knife & Wire Stripper

SHARK™
RAPID®
OPEN
COPPER ONLY

Features the patented
RAPID EDGE® serrated blade
that cuts easier and lasts longer!

The ONLY quality tool that combines a utility knife, wire stripper, cutter and crimper.

Features a 1-button quick blade change, 4-blade storage compartment, and a comfortable spring-loaded grip.
Available in two sizes: 10-18 AWG and 6-12 AWG.

www.rapidtools.net

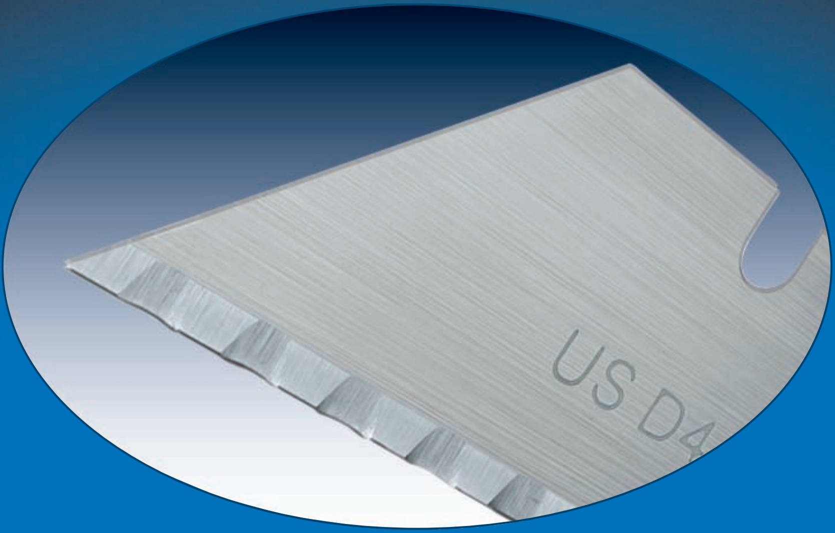
Popular Mechanics
PM EDITOR'S CHOICE AWARDS 08

Available at
LOWE'S®

Available at
ACE
Ask for item #2193233

RAPID TOOLS™

STRAIGHT JUST ISN'T CUTTING IT ANYMORE!™



*The amazing **Rapid Edge®** blade, with its patented, serrated design, reduces friction, stays sharp longer and fits any standard utility knife.*

Available in 5, 10, 25, 50, and 100 blade packs.

Also look for the complete line of Rapid Tools™ knives!

WARNING SHARP BLADE
RAPID EDGE®
Quick Change™

www.rapidtools.net

Available at LOWE'S ACE True Value®

NEW
Opticolor™
Stain-Free Grout
Protect your investment
Let *Opticolor* provide you stain-free* confidence
* With proper cleaning/maintenance. See www.mapei.com for details.
1-800-42-MAPEI (1-800-426-2734) • www.mapei.com

Optimum-Performance, Stain-Free Grout

MAPEI
Opticolor
Stain-Free Grout
Coulis résistant aux taches
Lechada resistente a las manchas

GREEN INNOVATION

Opticolor is developed with "green innovation" and is LEED-compliant, helping to contribute valuable points toward LEED-certified projects.

Easy cleaning

Consistent color with cement look

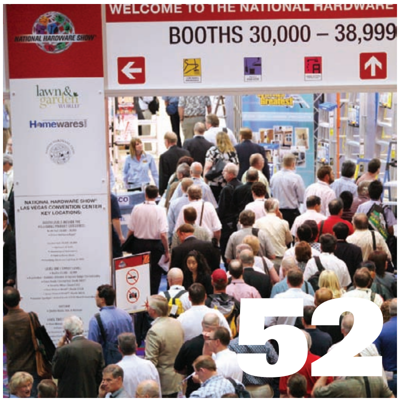
Available in 36 colors

No sealing required; mold- and mildew-resistant

MAPEI®
TECHNOLOGY YOU CAN BUILD ON™

CONTENTS

September **2008**


WELCOME TO THE NATIONAL HARDWARE
BOOTHS 30,000 – 38,999
lawn & garden
Homewares!
52

FEATURES

28 Extreme Outdoor Cooking Center
Create an outdoor kitchen for your next neighborhood get-together.

42 Walk Away
Replacing a Section of Sidewalk

52 Cool Tools at the NHS
Here are some hot new home-improvement products from the 2008 National Hardware Show.

DON'T LEAVE
DUST
HANGING
IN THE AIR.

Lafarge
Rapid Coat
LOW DUST
All Purpose Joint Compound
Less Mess for Faster Clean Up

Rapid Coat® Low Dust, All Purpose Joint Compound forms heavier dust particles during sanding for less airborne dust.
Dust falls quickly to the ground instead of hanging in the air for less mess and faster clean up.

Find out more at
www.LowDustLessMess.com

LAFARGE

www.lafargenorthamerica.com

G-FLOOR

Floor Cover/Protector®

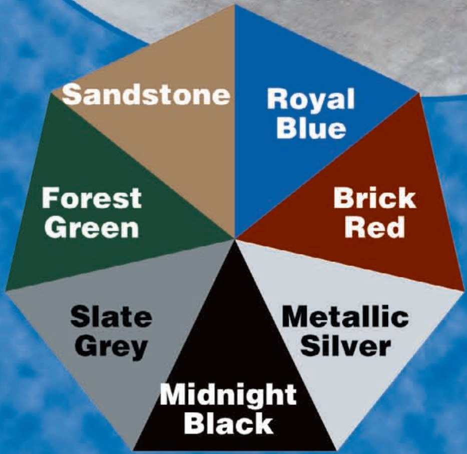
BLT Roll-Out Garage Flooring®

New Metallic Silver Color

Simply Unroll

No adhesives required

- Beautifies garage floor in minutes
- Hides cracks and stains
- Helps prevent concrete damage
- Patterned design reduces amount of dirt tracked into home
- Provides moisture and vapor barrier
- Cushions floor for anti-fatigue benefit
- Very durable—lasts for years
- 5-year limited warranty
- Easy to cut for custom fit
- Easy to move for cleaning
- Reduced noise and insulates


Sandstone
Royal Blue
Forest Green
Brick Red
Slate Grey
Metallic Silver
Midnight Black

BLT

Better Life Technology LLC

Contact BLT for purchase locations
customerservice@bltllc.com
www.g-floor.com
Qualified distributors—please apply

MADE IN USA

Patents Pending

CONTENTS

EVERY ISSUE

8 **From the Editor**

80 **Advertisers Index**

COLUMNS

10 **Q & A**

14 **Tool School**
Circular Saw Blades Up Close

22 **DIY**
Replace a Mower Deck

DEPARTMENTS

60 **Project Next**
Handy Drywall Tools

70 **Material Market**
New Deck-building Products

78 **Hot Products**

14
ARCUS
ARC OR CIRCLE CUTTING CIRCULAR SAW BLADE
7" DRY / WET ARC CUTTING
PREMIUM TURBO DIAMOND MASONRY BLADE
60
PROPANE
BERNZOMATIC
FAT BOY
20% MORE FUEL
GREEN KEY YOUR KEY TO BEING GREEN
DANGER
78

HardWood Soft Prices!
www.lumberliquidators.com
LUMBER LIQUIDATOR$
HARDWOOD FLOORING FOR LESS!®
1-800-FLOORING

STRIKER CONSTRUCTION PENCIL

POCKET CLIP
LEAD TUBE
RUGGED DESIGN
HIGH IMPACT ABS
NO SHARPENING
DURA LEAD
BLACK LEAD
RED LEAD
WHITE LEAD
RELOAD
ADJUST
FINE TUNE

CAUTION: MAY INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY
www.STRIKERPENCIL.com PHONE: 704-658-9332

RHEEM TANKLESS WATER HEATERS

imagine

never running out of hot water again…

Tankless water heaters provide a continuous supply of hot water – bath, after bath, after bath.

- Compact, space saving design allows you to place the unit indoors or outdoors, which saves valuable square footage.
- Precision temperature control with just the touch of a finger!
- UMC-117 remote control is included and can be set from the out-of-the-box 120 degrees – up to 140 degree maximum (additional remote control thermostats are available – sold separately)
- EZ-Link™ cable available for high demand applications to connect two tankless units to operate as one
- **Exclusive!** Guardian SBT™ sensing burner technology
- **Exclusive!** Guardian OFW™ overheat film wrap
- **Exclusive!** Two high-altitude options – up to 6,560 or 9,840 ft. elevations above sea level (altitude chip required – sold separately)
- **Exclusive!** All Rheem tankless models are third-party certified by GAMA
- **Exclusive!** All Rheem models can be linked in up to 20 unit manifold installations by using the optional MIC-180 and MICS-180 manifold control assembly

Interested? For more information contact your local Rheem distributor, or call **866-720-2076.**

Rheem
Tankless Water Heater
Rheem
Heavy Duty Tankless
Rheem
Tankless Water Heater
120

Tankless water heaters
Endless hot water

Rheem

Rheem Water Heating
101 Bell Road
Montgomery, AL 36117-4305
www.rheemtankless.com
customerservice@rheemtankless.com

relax
It's Rheem®

LETTER

From The Editor-In-Chief

Most areas of the United States are feeling the crunch of an unsteady housing market. While it's a great time for home buyers, it's tough times for sellers. So if selling your house isn't an absolute necessity, now would be a great time to build … build equity, that is.

The housing market is certain to turn around, and until then you can invest a little time and sweat to build value in your home, which you'll recoup when you eventually decide to sell. So, where should you look first?

According to many real estate professionals, updating kitchens and bathrooms top the list of equity-building projects. Three big items to consider for each room are cabinets, countertops and flooring. New cabinets—and lots of them—are a big selling point for new home buyers. While new custom-built cabinets can be an expensive investment, you can save money by installing new stock cabinets yourself. Refinishing old cabinets can be a chore that saves tons of money compared to a full replacement. Another option is to refinish the case, and then replace the doors and hardware with a more modern design.

Countertops are another big selling point. Granite and solid-surface countertops are hot right now, but can also require a hefty investment. A more economical option is laminate countertops. Whether re-laminating with new plastic sheets or installing a prefabricated, pre-laminated top, this presents a cost-effective way to update the décor.

Flooring is another big issue with kitchens and baths. Outdated tile is common in older homes, and replacing it with larger, more contemporary ceramic or stone is a popular way to renew the interior. Tiling a shower is another great way to build equity, as well as installing a new vanity.

Other areas to remodel include unfinished basements that can be completed as a finished living space. Adding a deck or patio as an outdoor living area can also be a big payoff down the line. The exterior of the house has limitless possibilities for building equity. Remember, the exterior is what gives potential buyers their first impression of the home, and that goes a long way.

While today may not be the best time to sell your home, that story may change dramatically a year from now. For most home-improvement projects, you can recoup the cost of the remodel with the newly created equity. Depending on the job, 70 to a 110 percent can be recouped, and that's if you contract the job. If you do it yourself, the payoff is much, much greater, both financially and personally, as you can take pride in your handiwork. And you can't beat that.

Extreme How-To

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Matt Weber

COPY EDITOR
Tanya Thompson

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Larry Walton
Bruce W. Smith
Monte Burch

ADVISORY BOARD
Monte Burch
Kevin Hayes
Kathy Ziprik
Mark Clement

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Wesley Glassco

CIRCULATION
Walter J. Riley

PUBLISHER
Chad Gillikin

ADVERTISING SALES DIRECTOR
Jeremy Hollingsworth

ADVERTISING SALES
Rusty Corley
Hal Jones
Jan Logan
Luke McGlothin

BUSINESS MANAGER
Dusty Statham

REPRINTS
Nedda Maloles
717-481-8500
nmaloles@reprintdept.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Kable News
888-587-8911

LATITUDE3 MEDIA GROUP, LLC

PRESIDENT
Trent R. Boozer

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT
Chad Gillikin

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT
Val Carrier

SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT
Mark Gamble

Extreme How-To is published by
LATITUDE3 MEDIA GROUP, LLC
1111 Edenton Street
Birmingham, AL 35242
Phone 205.949.1600 · Fax 205.949.1601
www.extremehowto.com

Extreme How-To (ISSN 1540-5346) is published and distributed monthly to DIY home improvement enthusiasts by Latitude3 Media Group, LLC, 1111 Edenton Street, Birmingham, AL 35242 (executive and editorial offices). All rights reserved. Neither this publication nor any part of it may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without permission of Latitude3 Media Group, LLC.
Subscriptions: U.S. and possessions: 1 year (9 issues – $18.97); foreign, 1 year (9 issues – $32.50) U.S. funds only. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Extreme How-To* P.O. Box 426, Mt. Morris, IL 61054-0426. SUBSCRIBER SERVICE: To order a subscription or change your address, write to *Extreme How-To* P.O. Box 426, Mt. Morris, IL 61054-0426, or call 888-587-8911; or E-mail to ehtw@kable.com; or visit our Web site at www.extremehowto.com. To order back issues, call (205) 949.1603.

The information in ***Extreme How-To's*** editorial content is intended to explain and simplify home-improvement tasks. Tools, products, materials, techniques, building codes and local regulations change; therefore, ***Latitude3*** assumes no liability for omissions, errors or the outcome of any project. The reader must always exercise reasonable caution, follow current codes and regulations that may apply, and is urged to consult with a licensed professional if in doubt about any procedures.

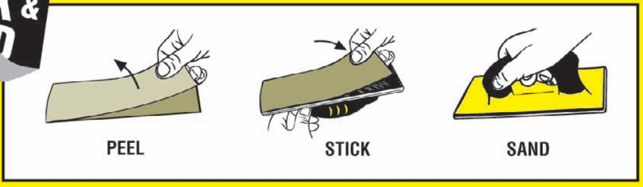
Printed in the USA

JOIN THE SANDING REVOLUTION!

PEEL STICK & SAND
SANDFAST by Red Devil
DETAIL SANDER
SQUARE SANDING SHEETS
150
FINE GRIT
20 SHEETS 51x38mm
ALUMINUM OXIDE WITH
HAND & POLE SANDER
SANDING SHEETS
MULTI-PACK
80/150/220
4 SHEETS EACH 228x89mm
ALUMINUM OXIDE WITH ZINC STEARATE
PROFESSIONAL GRADE SANDPAPER
PALM SANDER
SANDING SHEETS
80
MEDIUM GRIT
10 SHEETS 114x89mm
DETAIL SANDER
TRIANGLE SANDING SHEETS
150
FINE GRIT
20 SHEETS 51x38mm
SANDFAST

- **Quick & Simple** – Peel and stick the sanding sheet and you're ready to sand; no clips, nuts or bolts to mess with
- **Innovative & Unique** – Patented adhesive system ensures sanding sheet won't slip, rip or move, even when sanding in difficult corners
- **Durable & Effective** – Each sanding sheet can be used several times; it clogs less and works better than other sandpaper

PEEL STICK & SAND


PEEL
STICK
SAND

SANDFAST® by Red Devil®

Red Devil, Inc. • 1-800-423-3845 • www.sandfast.com

Q&A

Got a ?

*Questions About Home Building, Remodeling? Have Your Own How-To Tip? Visit our website at **www.extremehowto.com** and click on Home Repair Forum.*

Q: *How do laminated roof shingles differ from standard three-tab asphalt shingles?*

A: Laminated asphalt shingles, also called three-dimensional shingles or architectural shingles, have more than one layer of tabs to create extra thickness. This creates visual depth on a roof for a more customized look. The advantages of the extra layers are longevity, wind resistance and even increase in hail resistance. Architectural shingles are typically tested to withstand 70-mph winds, with some products tested up to 90 mph. Standard three-tab shingles are tested to 60 mph.

……

Q: *My house has a cement block foundation, and I'd like to dress up the painted block with a stucco-like product. Any advice on what to use?*

A: A basic way to mix the plaster or stucco is to start with an 80-pound bag of cement, water and 70 pounds of masonry sand. First, use a screen to sift the coarse rocks out of the sand, leaving only the fines in your mixing area (masonry box, wheelbarrow, etc.). Then dump half the bag of cement into the sand. Next, use a hoe or shovel to mix in water and pigment until you have a thick, muddy consistency tinted to your desired color. When you drag a hoe through the stucco, it should be just thick enough to hold its form. Prep the wall surface by spraying the block with water to prevent the stucco from drying too quickly. Use a masonry trowel to apply the mud in overlapping arcs to the wall. Then trowel the surface to your preferred texture.

Buy Factory Direct with Coast-to-Coast Delivery

Classic Collection of Steel
Aluminum Outdoor Living
Galvanized Steel Exterior
Solid Hand-Crafted Wood

The Perfect Spiral Stair for any Project.

Call Salter Industries at **1-800-368-8280** or 610-489-5799 for 40-Pages of FREE Brochures

- Factory direct purchasing saves you money!
- Customer service department standing by 9:00am-5:00pm EST
- BOCA Code, UBC Code, IRC 2003,IRC 2006, and IFC 2006 code compliant

Salter Industries
The Leader in Spiral Staircases

For FREE Quote call **1-800-368-8280** or visit us at **www.salterspiralstair.com/eht**

...One Beautiful Floor

QuietWarmth®

Radiant Heat Underlayment

- Floating radiant heat panels ideally suited for floating tile, laminate and wood flooring
- Can also be used with other hard surface flooring like traditional ceramic tile and glue-down wood
- Much easier to install than most other radiant systems, no need to bury components in thick concrete

Heat your floor for pennies a day!

Works Great With SnapStone Tile!

MP global products L.L.C.

Your SUSTAINABLE underlayment professionals

(888) 379.9695 | quietwarmth.com

Q&A Got a ?

Questions About Home Building, Remodeling? Have Your Own How-To Tip? Visit our website at ***www.extremehowto.com*** *and click on Home Repair Forum.*

Q. *I'd like to paint some old cabinets in the garage. I'd like to use latex but don't want to prime unnecessarily. How do I determine whether the previous paint is oil or latex?*

A. Oil paints tend to be very smooth and sleek to the touch, and latex paints have a more rubbery feel. The difference is more distinct with gloss paints than with flat paints. Beyond that, the easiest way to tell is to rub an area of the paint with denatured alcohol or a paint de-glosser. If the paint is latex-based, some of the paint may be removed and the surface will become slightly tacky. Nothing will happen if the paint is oil-based.

……

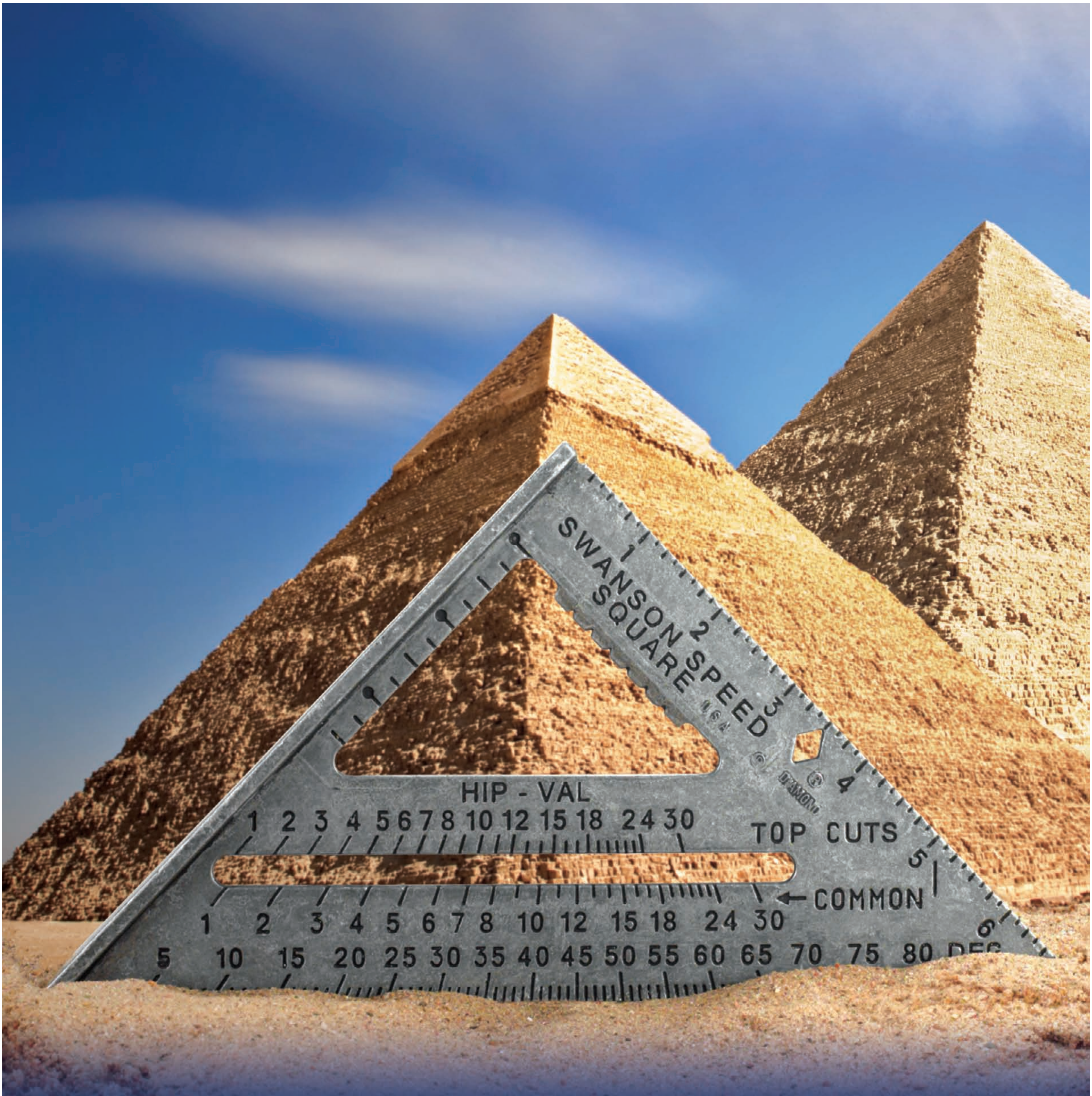
Q. *I have a 30-year old home and I'm seeing some signs of moisture on the block foundation wall in my below-grade basement. Will painting the wall with a waterproofing sealant do any good?*

A. What you're seeing is common in older homes where the original waterproofing has failed. Applying a waterproof sealer on the interior side of the basement will be a temporary fix at best, and while it may block the water, it won't eliminate it. Water will always take the past of least resistance. Probably the best thing to do is perform preventive maintenance so the problem doesn't worsen. Make sure your gutters, downspouts and splash blocks are diverting water several feet away from the house—the further away, the better. Check the landscaping to make sure water isn't draining downhill toward the building envelope. Use clay to sculpt the slope away from the house if necessary. The bottom line is to keep as much moisture away from the house as possible. **EHT**

Your Single Source for
Garage Storage and Organization Systems

Realize increased sales and profits with the HandiSolutions™ Garage Storage and Organization system. Now you can get all your storage and organization products– slatwall, cabinets, and accessories from a single source – HandiSolutions™. Our complete line includes HandiWall™ panels, baskets, hooks, shelves, tilt bins, tool holders, folding work bench, tambour door cabinets, trim extrusions, and mounting hardware to name a few.

HandiSOLUTIONS
A Division of Custom Plastics, Inc.
1940 Lunt Avenue
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
847-439-6770, ask for sales • www.handiwall.com


SWANSON SPEED SQUARE
HIP - VAL
TOP CUTS
COMMON
DEG

PRECISION ACCURACY

Stands the Test of Time

LEVELS FOLDING SQUARES TORPEDO LEVELS BUILDER SQUARES SPECIALTY LEVELS

SWANSON®

Swanson Tool Co., Inc. Frankfort, Illinois 800-291-3471 www.swansontoolco.com

Circular Saw Blades Up Close

Understanding the Evolution of Blade Technology

The latest Bosch pro-grade blades come with a handy storage case.

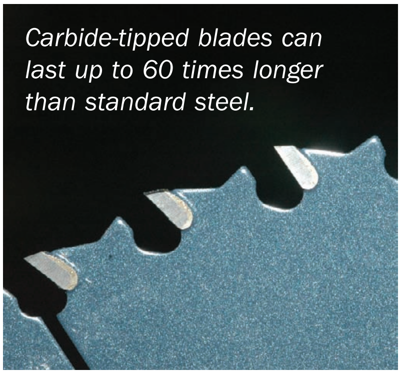
By Matt Weber

Circular saws are the most widely used cutting tools around, whether they're configured as a portable handheld model, a table saw, miter saw or radial arm saw. At first glance, the blades for these tools may appear similar, but the blade should always be matched to the job at hand. Certain saw blade materials are better suited for cutting certain stock materials. And beyond material concerns, subtle changes in tooth grind are carefully engineered to make one blade better suited to a specific application than another. Here's what to look for.

MATERIAL BASICS

The entry level material for circular saw blades is standard steel. Steel blades are inexpensive and work fine for cutting soft woods. However, you can expect a steel blade to dull quickly, particularly when used on hardwoods.

High-speed steel blades, or HSS blades, are manufactured harder than steel for longer service life without dulling.



Carbide-tipped blades can last up to 60 times longer than standard steel.

Professional craftsmen usually opt for carbide-tipped blades, in which the body of the blade is made from high-speed steel, but the teeth are made from the harder carbide material. These blades are initially more expensive than steel but stay sharper much longer than steel or HSS blades. Just how much longer? Well, Skil hails its line of carbide-tipped blades for lasting up to 60 times longer than steel blades.

As far as carbide goes, there are also varying degrees of hardness among carbide-tipped blades. For example, Freud's Avanti line of saw blades are manufactured with a blend of titanium and cobalt resulting in a high-density carbide material for a longer cutting life. In fact, Freud backs its Avanti line with a lifetime guarantee that the blade "will be free from defects in

A SAW BY ANY OTHER NAME, WELL, IT'S JUST NOT A SKILSAW.®

The original circular saw. 80 years and it just keeps cutting better.

SKILSAW®
2.5 HP
LASER X2
SKILSAW
Ø7¼"
18
LASER X2
SKILSAW 5755

LASER X2™

Skil's innovative SmartCut™ system utilizes a two beam laser, showing you exactly where the cut line is. That means a job done right, the first time. Every time.

The 5755-01 SKILSAW with Two Beam Laser Guide™

Great tools become common place, part of the workforce, a part of you. And there's not many job sites or workbenches where you won't find a circ saw. And you can thank Skil for that. Now the original circular saw just got better with LaserX2 technology, a two beam laser system that guarantees the perfect cut, everytime. With a powerful 13 amp motor, Grip-Right™ handle, Anti-Snag lower guard and of course the quality and innovation Skil's famous for, and you've got a saw ready for the next 80 years. Go to **skiltools.com** for more details on the 5755-01, and all the tools to complete your next project... with Skil.

SKIL®

Do it right. Do it with Skil.™

materials and workmanship for its life."

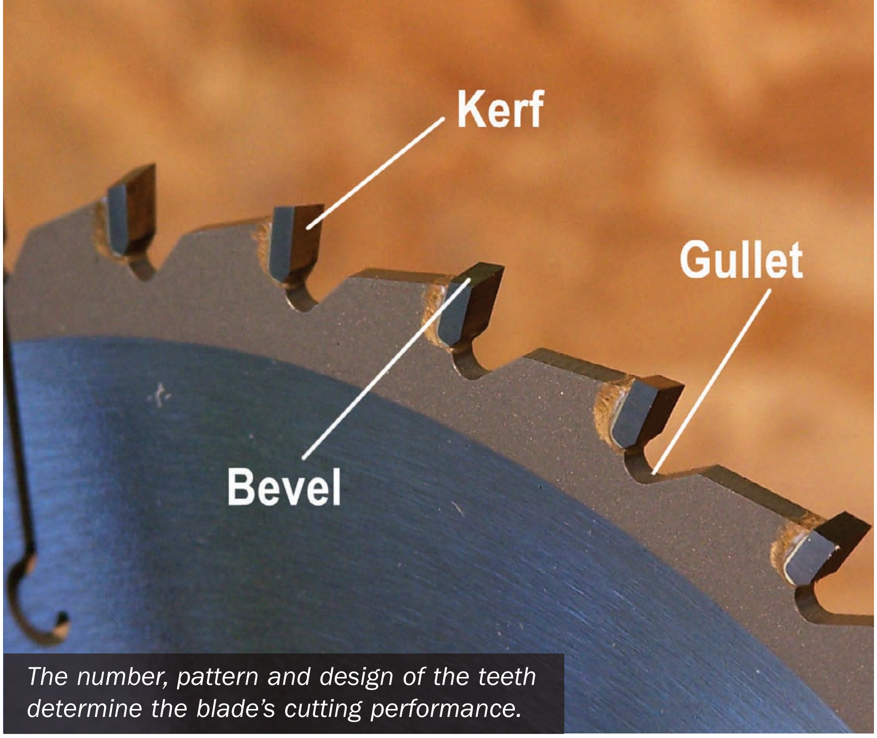
Next up are abrasive blades, which forgo teeth in favor of bonded abrasive materials similar to a thin grinder wheel. Often used with cut-off saws, or "chop saws," but available in many different sizes, abrasive blades are intended to cut masonry or metal, with the intended application generally printed right on the blade.

Diamond blades are among the most expensive saw blades, but they're the only way to go when cutting brittle materials such as glass or ceramic tiles, as well as concrete, brick and stone. Commercial-grade diamond blades are used to cut concrete road bed and similar heavy-duty jobs. With these blades, diamond crystals are heated and pressed into the segmental cutting teeth of the blade. Like abrasive blades, diamond blades don't actually cut so much as grind through hard materials. Diamond blades work best when cutting wet, because the water prevents the blade from overheating, reducing the amount of harmful dust and slurry from the cut.

BLADE ANATOMY

Tooth design is key to determining a blade's best application. Slight differences in the *bevel*, *gullet* and *kerf* of the teeth can significantly affect cutting performance.

According to blade experts at Vermont American, teeth can have a single bevel, two bevels or no bevel at all. Plus, the types of bevel can alternate from tooth to tooth on a single blade. The bevel, or variety of bevels, is what gives a blade its specific cutting pattern.

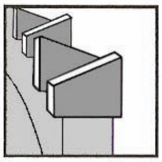


The number, pattern and design of the teeth determine the blade's cutting performance.

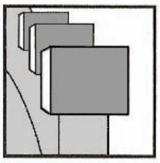
The space between the blade's teeth is called the gullet, and it clears the chips of material while the blade is cutting. The larger the gullet, the more efficiently it scoops out the cut material.

The kerf is the face of the tooth. The kerf is what does the actual cutting. The pattern of alternating kerfs is what's known as the tooth grind.

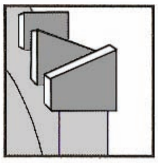
The tooth grind decides what application the blade is best suited for. There are many types of grinds, which may or may not be indicated on the blade's packaging. What's more important is the intended application is *always* listed on the package. Shop according to the blade's intended use and you'll be in good shape.



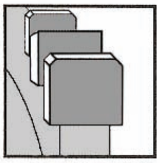
Alternate Top Bevel (ATB)-
Crosscutting



Flat Top Grind (FTG)-
Best for
Ripping



Tri-Grind (TRI)-
Combination
Grind



Triple Chip Grind
(TCG)-
Non-ferrous metals

The quantity of teeth also plays a significant role in the blade's performance. For example, blades best suited for ripping stock along the grain typically have fewer teeth with large gullets for easy chip removal. Blades meant for crosscutting across the grain have more teeth, usually 48 or more, with a smaller gullet for a smoother cut. The higher number of teeth generally translates into smoother cuts, ideal for trim and finish applications.

Beyond blade material and tooth grind, another aspect of blade design is the expansion slots seen in larger sized blades. As the blade cuts, it heats up and expands; the slots compensate for this. These slots vary in design among manufacturers, but they all serve to keep the blade cooler and reduce warping.

When selecting the best blades, particularly for larger power tools like miter saws and table saws, keep an eye out for such features as anti-friction coating. It does just what it sounds like, minimizes friction, thus heat, during cutting in order to reduce wear and extend the life of the blade.

Daryl Johnston
MOOSE

DARYL "MOOSE" JOHNSTON, DALLAS FOOTBALL LEGEND. MEMBER OF THREE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS. PLAYED 151 GAMES, SEASON AFTER SEASON, FOR 11 YEARS.

Agri-Fab®
Tough Tools–Season After Season™

WE MAKE TOOLS
LIKE WE MAKE PROMISES.
FOR KEEPS.

You can count on Agri-Fab® tools and attachments. They're designed to be smart, built to be tough and guaranteed to last, with the industry's only 3-year warranty. Call us toll-free at (800) 448-9282, or visit **www.agri-fab.com.**

3 Year Limited Warranty

Agri-Fab
Agri-Fab

CUTTING-EDGE BLADES

Xtend Blades for Cordless Saws

When it comes to new blade technology for circular saws, Vermont American takes a targeted approach to battery-powered saws. With the rising popularity of cordless saws thanks in part to lighter lithium-ion batteries, Vermont American now offers a wide range of Xtend Blades with Micro Edge Technology. Micro Edge is a combination of "scalpel sharp" teeth (V.A.'s terminology is a bit of a stretch) and a very narrow kerf edge. This narrow cutting kerf creates less drag and resistance than standard blades with wider kerfs. The decreased resistance means cordless saws operate more efficiently. According to Vermont American, the blades pay off with 40 percent more cuts per battery charge. (www.vermontamerican.com)

Makita
Vermont American
XTEND
6½"
MICRO EDGE TECHNOLOGY

Irwin Marathon Blades

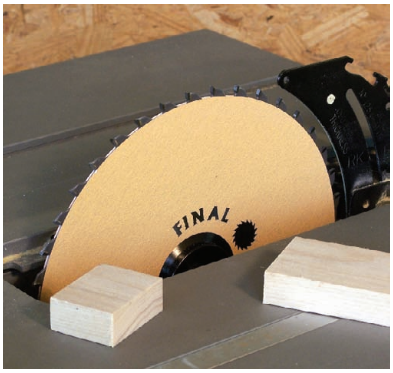
The last time I was blade-shopping at my local hardware store, Shaw Building Supply in Mount Olive, Alabama, Mr. Shaw told me the best blade he carried was Irwin's Marathon series. I took his suggestion and was pleased with the quick, clean cuts I got during a deck-framing project. Features include a thin kerf for faster cuts, micro-grain carbide tips, a fully hardened plate for longer life and a reinforced shoulder for added durability.

MARATHON
WELDTEC
30%
24T
WELDED CARBIDE / CARBURO SOLDADO
FRAME MORE HOUSES FASTER
IRWIN

Irwin recently launched the Marathon series for handheld circular saws that features WeldTec technology. The blade has welded carbide teeth (as opposed to brazed, like most blades). According to Irwin, this pays off with 30-percent stronger tooth bond and 50-percent longer life. (www.irwin.com)

Final Cut

A uniquely new concept in blades is the Final Cut Saw Blade. This 10-inch, 40-tooth blade features sanding discs on each side of the blade that allow it to cut and sand the work piece at the same time. The abrasive disc is actually wider than the blade kerf, so each cut produces a fine, double-sided finish that needs no further sanding. Quite frankly, our staff was skeptical about the design, but we gave it a try on some No. 1 pine and it does leave a nice, smooth finish on the cuts. The big question is: How long will it last? According to the manufacturer, "It all depends on the material being cut. For example, if you are cutting 2-1/4-inch pine casing, the blade and sandpaper will make about 2,000 cuts before you need to resharpen the blade or replace the sandpaper." (www.finalcutblade.com)



Bosch SpeedWave 7-1/4"

Bosch offers a 7-1/4-inch SpeedWave diamond blade with a diamond-shaped arbor knockout so users can cut with an angle grinder, as well as any worm-drive circular saw. The blade features a wave-shaped ridge along both sides of each segment, designed to reduce blade friction and drag. The design also helps clear dust faster for better overall performance. In addition, SpeedWave benefits from the first-ever center Cooling Disc. The disc uses the blade's rotation to draw ai rinto the integrated cooling channels and then evenly distributes it, allowing the blade surface to cool, which increases the blade life. (www.boschtools.com)

BOSCH
BOSCH
SPEEDWAVE
7"

Hercke Garage Cabinets

Chaos defeated. Order restored.

© Copyright 2007 Hercke International. All rights reserved. Hercke®, Series 7even®, System 7even.1®, System 7even.2®, and System 7even.3® are registered trademarks of Hercke International.

Open your garage door with that quietly satisfied smugness.

Hercke. The next dimension. Home elegant. Garage tough. Welcome to the Hercke dimension. Organization with a space-enhancing, home modular systems that take home storage to new places. Namely: playrooms, offices, studios, bedrooms, pantries, outdoor entertainment areas, shop floors, and certainly, the tried and true garage. Hercke is years of meticulous design and methodical development. Hercke is about to reconfigure and revolutionize the way we all think about and look at organization.

Kit Name	7.2 series MSRP	7.3 series MSRP
Activity Locker	$2,520.00	$2,270.00
Garage Set	$4,990.00	$4,530.00
Large Garage Scene	$6,704.00	$6,004.00
Ultimate Workshop Set	$7,297.00	$6,737.00
Locker and Bench Setup	$3,125.00	$2,665.00
Sportsman Storage	$1,881.00	$1,731.00
Sportsman Workshop Set	$2,696.00	$2,436.00
Large Laundry Room	$6,610.00	$5,930.00

Hercke modular systems brings useful style to unexpected spaces.

Avant-garage. Hercke is the smart, stylish new go-to garage organizer. It's the biggest door in the house, it's time to improve the view.

Features include alternative work surface choices, versatile rollout cart options and all of the Hercke toughness any space can hold.

One series, three systems. Series 7even® is our concept for simple, smart and sophisticated home organization. From this concept comes three material/finish variations:

System 7even.1® - all stainless steel construction.

System 7even.2® - stainless steel facings with powder-coated casings.

System 7even.3® - All powder-coated steel facings and casings.

Activity Locker Set

Activity Locker Scene
MSRP
7.2: $2500.00
7.3: $2270.00
pictured: 7.2

Lockers and Bench Sets

pictured: 7.3

Sportsman Storage Set

Sportsmen Storage Scene
MSRP
7.2: $1263.33
7.3: $1164.00
pictured: 7.3

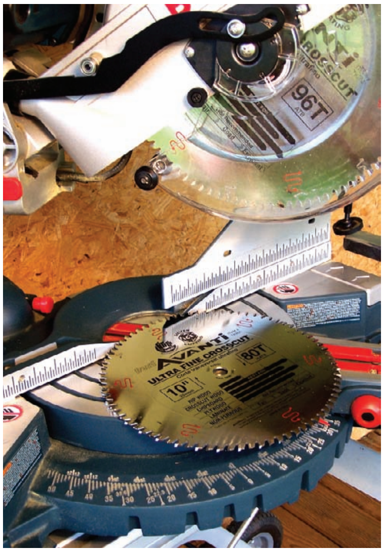
to order:
www.JNKProducts.com

JNK PRODUCTS

for more storage options: www.jnkproducts.com/hercke

Freud Avanti Blades

"A hot knife through butter" is an overused metaphor, but that's what we think of Freud's Avanti blades, which made the most effortless cuts of any of the blades we tested. The Alternate Top Bevel (ATB) tooth grind makes practically splinter-free cuts, and the teeth are made from a mixture of cobalt, tungsten and titanium for unsurpassed cutting life. Freud's anti-friction coating is called Silver I.C.E., and one touch is all you need to tell its difference from competitive coatings. The glassy smooth surface reduces heat and pitch build-up, and according to Freud, the Silver I.C.E. coating will result in blades lasting twice as long as standard polished blades. (www.freudtools.com)



Arcus Masonry Blade

In past issues *EHT* has covered the contoured Arcus blade that makes it possible to use a circular saw to cut curves and circles in wood. Arcus now offers a contoured masonry blade that can be used freehanded, or with a compass guide, to make curved cuts from a 15-inch radius and larger. The Arcus masonry blade is 7 inches with a 10-millimeter rim that can be used dry or wet. Maximum depth of cut at 15-inch radius is 1-1/2 inches, and a cut at 24-inch radius is 2 inches deep. The cutting width is 1/8 inch, ideal for scoring decorative grout lines in patio slabs. The contoured blade height lying flat is 1/4 inch due to the contoured design, so check your saw for enough clearance to make sure the blade doesn't rub when mounted in the saw. (www.arcusblade.com) **EHT**

ARCUS
ARC OR CIRCLE CUTTING CIRCULAR SAW BLADE
7" DRY / WET
ARC CUTTING
PREMIUM TURBO
DIAMOND MASONRY BLADE

***Editor's Note:** Special thanks to Vermont American for providing information to this article.*

HILTI'S HIGH-CAPACITY CORDLESS WSC 7.25-A

One of the saw's we used to test the blades was Hilti's new WSC 7.25-A 36-volt, 7-1/2-inch cordless circular saw. Lightweight, well balanced and very powerful, the WSC 7.25-A is equipped with a 36-volt, 3.3-amp hour Hilti Cordless Power Care (CPC) lithium-ion battery, making it the highest capacity cordless circular saw on the market. The WSC 7.25-A also has the deepest cutting depth on the market with a 2-5/8-inch cut depth at 90 degrees. The saw's new W-CSC Teflon-coated saw blades reduce friction when cutting, and the ultra-thin blade increases cutting speed. And you probably won't need it, but the saw is covered under Hilti's Lifetime Service. The WSC 7.25-A will be serviced quickly, if needed, with no additional cost for two years. After which, the saw will have a maximum repair cost of no more than 30-percent of the tool's then-current list price. (www.us.hilti.com)

M.K. MORSE'S METAL DEVIL

M.K. Morse's Metal Devil saws and blade series makes cutting metal as easy as cutting 2-by-4 lumber. The Morse Metal Devil combines unique metallurgy and a special tooth configuration to cut metal faster, cleaner and cooler than was previously possible. In tests it cut through 6-by-1/4-inch steel plate in an average of less than 12 seconds and 2-by-2-1/4-inch angle iron in less than 6 seconds. *EHT* used the combination of the Metal Devil 9-inch blade with the Metal Devil saw and we heard oohs and ahhs from those watching, as we cut through Fortress Iron's metal rails used in a decking project. The Metal Devil allowed us to stack rails back to back, saving us 50 percent in time spent cutting. The blade cut as fast on the 30th rail as it did the first. (www.mkmorse.com)

Ideal for
FINISH
& TRIM
EASY TO CARRY
ON THE JOB SITE
MAXUS
X-LITE
EX8019
LIGHTWEIGHT
ALUMINUM
maxustools.com
1-888-MAXUS4U
MAXUS
ALUMINUM X-LITE

Rust Not, Want Not

Replace an old mower deck to give new life to your walk-behind.

BALL BEARING WHEELS

By Bruce W. Smith

When you see more grass clippings coming out the top of your walk-behind's deck than are going into the catch bag, it's safe to say it's time for a new mower. At least those were my initial thoughts, when chunks of rusted-out metal started flinging off my six-year-old push mower. I could see lots of daylight when I washed off the grass clippings from beneath the deck.

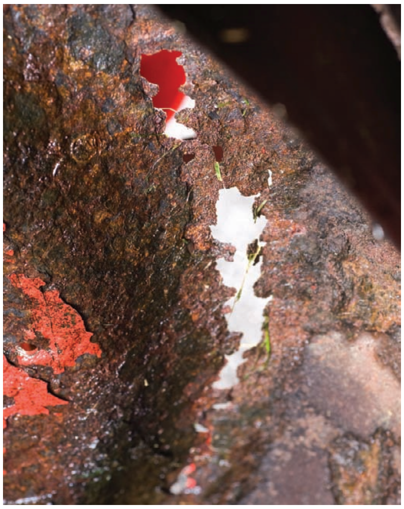
Even though I washed my old mower after each use, changed the oil twice a year and tried to keep it maintained, the thin metal of the deck wasn't up to the ravaging corrosive effects of high humidity and my coastal location. My choices were: 1) drop a couple hundred dollars for a new model and set the old one out with the trash; or 2) repair the deck.

Being frugal, and mindful of being "green," I chose the latter; after all, it seemed wasteful to throw away a mower that was in good shape except for the deck.

My mower is a 21-inch Troy-Bilt walk-behind. After a short Google parts search, it became clear it's one of many brands actually built by MTD. Parts diagrams and parts are plentiful—including a Deck Service Kit. So, credit card in one hand, mouse in the other, I placed an order with M and D Mower (www.M-and-D.com). A week later UPS arrived bearing gifts: a Deck Service Kit and a new mulching blade.

An hour later, kneeling on a Bedrug (www.bedrug.com) work mat and with a little help from my neighbor, plus a few simple GearWrench hand tools, the last bolt on the new deck was being tightened. The rusted-out sheet-metal holding up the engine was already in the trash pile. In its place was a brand new, shiny red deck with new rear baffle and mulching blade. We also replaced the control cable while everything was apart.

Now when I'm walking behind my "new" mower I don't see grass and rust chunks blowing up into the air. Not only am I back to safe mowing, I saved enough money in the process to buy mower gas for the next five years. If this is a route you find appealing, check out the photos to see how we did the repairs.



A line of rusted-out metal is the obvious sign this mower's deck is ready for the scrap heap. But the engine and the rest of the mower parts are still in good shape, meaning it's still a keeper.

INSPIRED TO START A MAJOR PROJECT? WE KNOW WHERE TO FIND THE BEST HELP AROUND HERE.

Whether you need an expert electrician or a creative interior designer, you can read reviews and find recommendations on local businesses at Superpages.com®.

we know around here **super**pages.com

Service kits for mower decks are available for just such a purpose. Our kit consisted of the new deck, rear baffle and star adapter (to hold the blade to the shaft.). We ordered a new mulching blade when we purchased this kit through M-and-D Mowers.

The emergency-stop control cable can be left on the handle if it's in good shape, but needs to be disconnected from the engine. This mower's cable was rusting, so we removed it for replacement later.

Give every nut and bolt a good shot of your favorite penetrating lubricant. We used Liquid Wrench to get through the rust on this project.

Two bolts hold the rear wheels/handlebar bracket assembly in place. One is a 3/8-inch self-tapping screw and the other a thru-bolt that requires

Radiant Heat

At a price that's hard to beat

Go With the Best

Using the highest-quality radiant floor heating components, **Hannel Radiant Direct** provides contractors and home owners the best design, products/technology, and service. Our RPA-certified design team has worked on thousands of projects installed throughout North America and provide support after the sale to insure a successful installation.

Benefits of Radiant Direct Heat

- **Comfort:** Even heat from the floor up, with no on-off temperature shifts. No fan or blower noise, and no blowing dust or mites.
- **Efficiency:** Heat your home for 30% to 50% less than with a standard forced-air system.
- **Flexibility:** Heat areas of your home to different temperatures, heat domestic water, or use it to keep your driveway or walk clear of snow.

Make It Easy On Your Pocketbook

Hannel Radiant Direct brings you the luxury of radiant heat at a price very competitive with standard forced-air systems. For around $3 per sq. ft, you can have the steady, quiet, clean comfort that only radiant floor heating can provide. **Hannel Radiant Direct** systems are typically 1/2 to 1/3 less than those installed by a radiant system contractor.

Contact us for a FREE quote today!
888.298.6036 or www.radiantdirect.com

Hannel RADIANT DIRECT
Hannel ARCTICOOL

Visit us online at www.radiantdirect.com or call 888-298-6036 toll-free

either a 24mm open-end wrench to hold the head and a 9/16-inch box-end on the nut inside—or you can remove the wheel and hold the bolt's head with slip pliers. We used the wrench system.

Remove the rear wheels/handlebar assembly in one piece and set aside. Keep the nuts and bolts to be reused.

Tilt the mower on its side. Use a 5/8-inch (or whatever size is appropriate for your mower) socket to remove the blade, being careful not to cut your hands in the process.

Remove the three 3/8-inch bolts that attach the engine to the deck. Be sure the threaded portion of the screw visible from the topside is well-lubricated before removal, or else you could gall the threads in the aluminum engine housing.

Lift the engine off the deck and set aside with the other parts.

Remove the hinged mulching plug. The 5/16-inch bolts holding ours in place were rusted so

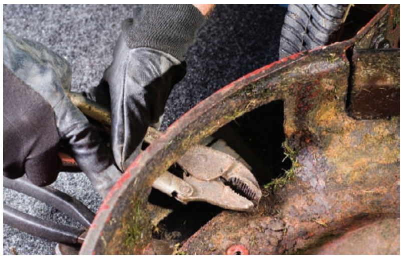
WANT THE BEST LAWN MOWER BLADE ON THE MARKET?

Our XHT and XHT Predator blades have been field tested in every part of the country and have consistently outperformed and outlasted every blade matched against them, even the new fusion blades. Our XHT Predator blades are identical to the gator blade as far as shape and size go, the only difference being they are manufactured with our XHT technology give the Predator blade a much longer life. What's more, with our attractive pricing, you'll find we're a better deal than most any other source. With over 20,000 aftermarket parts we're sure to have what you need.

In addition to our blades, we carry over 3 million OEM parts for AYP, EHP, Sears, Craftsman, Poulan, Weedeater, Husqvarna, Homelite, Ryobi, All MTD products including Troy Bilt, Cub Cadet, Lowes, Yard Machines as well as many other brands. We also carry the Gator Blades and both Oregon and Carlton saw chains as well as Oregon OEP Products. Most orders ship same or next day for fast delivery across the country. We also carry ATV Parts.

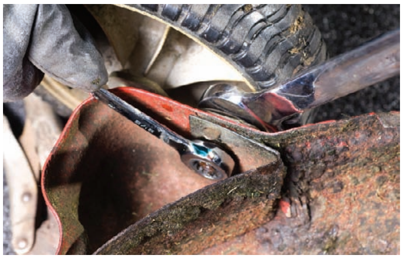
Enter the code **EXTREME** at online checkout or when ordering by phone and save **10% off** your order.

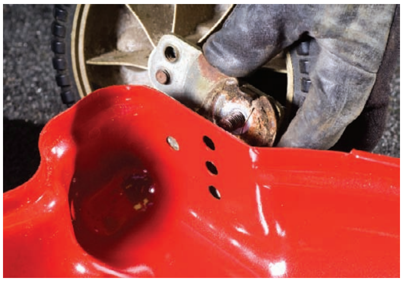
Order online at **www.outdoorpowerparts.net**
Or Call 888-XHT-BLADE (888-948-2523)



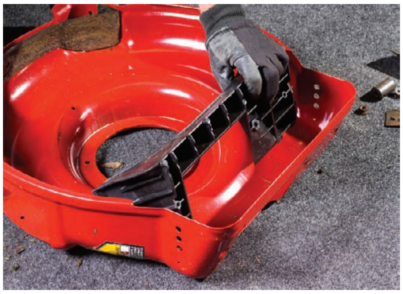
badly we had to use locking pliers to remove them. It's good to survey your mower before ordering parts to ensure you have everything needed before repairs begin.

The front wheel assemblies, whose 9/16-inch bolts also hold the front baffle in place, can be removed in one piece just as the rear wheels were handled. The front baffle on our mower will be reused. Toss the old deck in the trash.





Flip the new deck upside down and reinstall the front wheels that were just removed. Use the existing mounting hardware if you didn't order new parts.



Position the rear baffle that came with the service kit and use the supplied self-tapping screws to attach it to the deck. Flip the deck over and set the rear wheels/handlebar in place.

Set the engine back into position on the new deck and attach using the old bolts.

Pull the old blade's star adapter off the engine shaft. If it is rusted in place, use a small wheel puller to remove it. The

NUMBER #1 FOR LAWN MOWER PARTS! OVER 1.2 MILLION PARTS AVAILABLE!

Can't find the right part? We carry parts for all major brands of outdoor power equipment including tractors, lawn mowers, air compressors, generators, pressure washers, snow blowers and more!

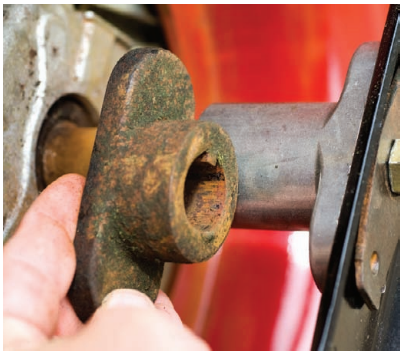
Find your right part today at
WWW.JACKSSMALLENGINES.COM

1-877-73-PARTS

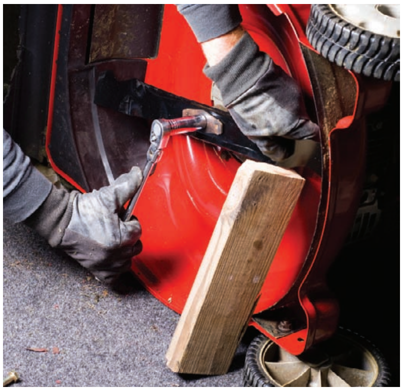
JSE

WWW.JACKSSMALLENGINES.COM
"AFTER THE SALE, IT'S THE SERVICE THAT COUNTS!"

JACK'S SMALL ENGINE & GENERATOR SERVICE LLC. CALL US AT 1 (877) 737-2787



new deck is 1 inch deeper than the old one, so you must use the adapter sent with the service kit to mount your mower blade.



Tighten the crankshaft bolt. Make sure the blade is in the proper position as indicated on the blade face ("Down") and use a block of wood to hold the blade from turning while you tighten.

The new, finished deck provides better cutting ability than the old version and makes the mower look good as new. **EHT**

Plumbing & Heating Supplies
Save Time - Save Gas - Save Cash
Online Ordering
www.pexsupply.com
LOWEST GUARANTEED PRICES
Skip the Trip
to Home Stores.
PexSupply.com
888.757.4774

EXTREME OUTDOOR COO

By Monte Burch

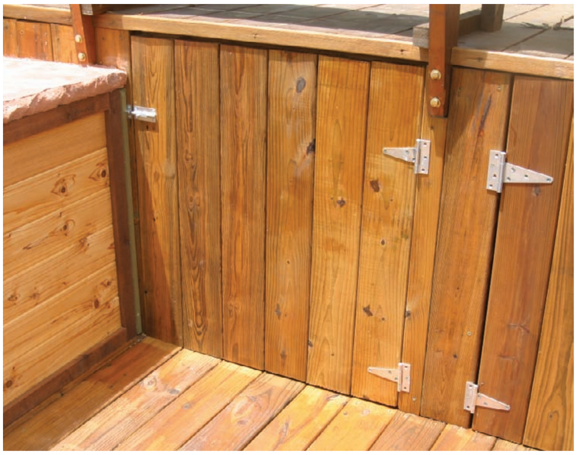
OKING CENTER

Create an outdoor kitchen for your next neighborhood get-together.

EXTREME
OUTDOOR COOKING CENTER

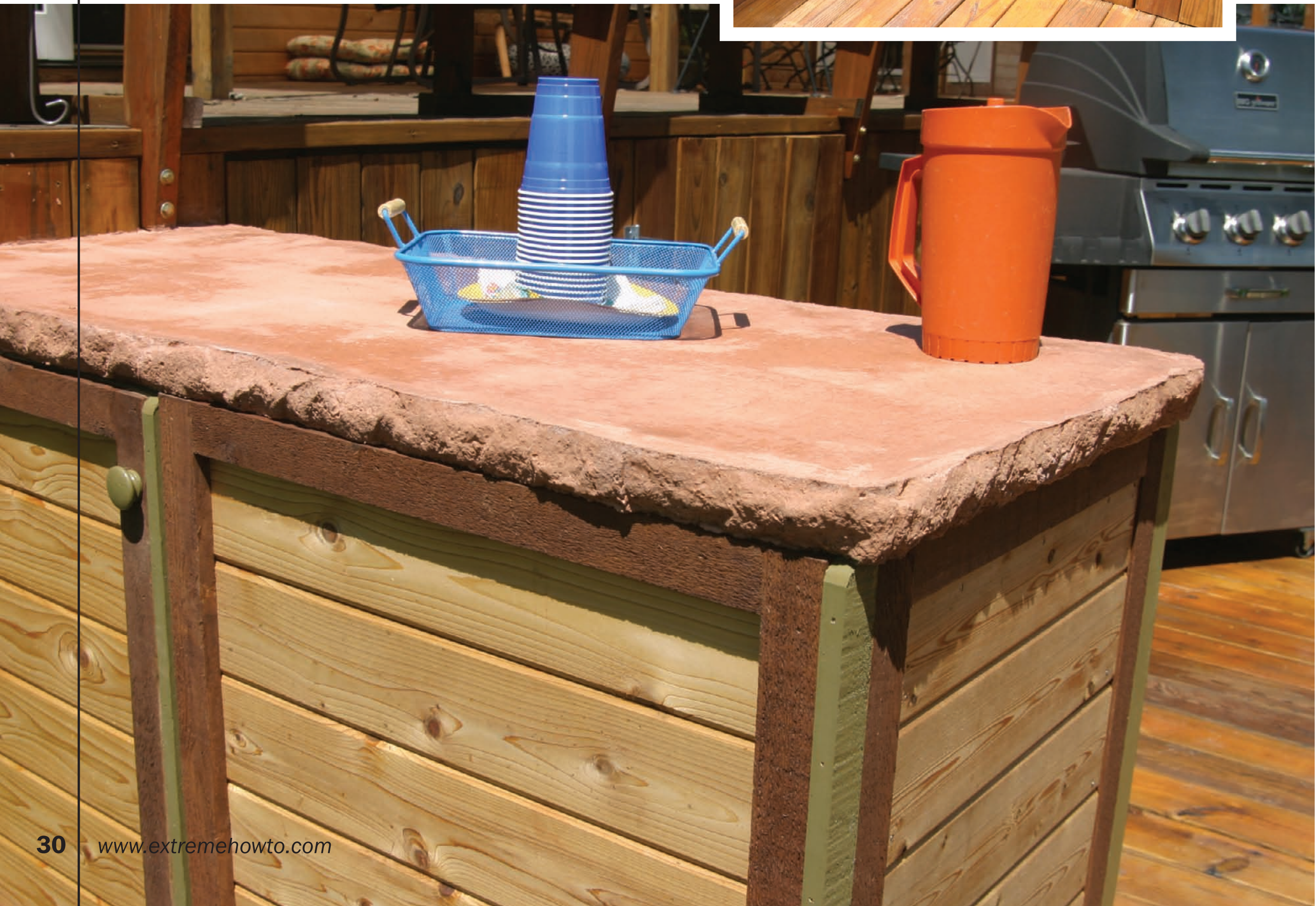
I love to cook outdoors. Not only do I like to grill for family and friends, but I smoke a wide variety of meats, such as brisket, ribs and chickens, sometimes for a full neighborhood party. My fish fryer also gets lots of work-out during the summer months. I probably use the turkey fryer the least, only three or four times a year. Over the years I've worked on refining not only outdoor cooking so it's simple and easy, but the equipment needed as well as a comfortable place to cook. You can, of course do your outdoor cooking any place you can set up a grill, even a small portable grill on a balcony. A specific area designed for cooking not only makes it easier to cook, but to store equipment as well. In many cases outdoor cooking also involves entertaining folks, so you may want to set up your outdoor cooking center suitable to entertaining guests.

The center shown is an add-on, second-level deck below the main deck. The lower deck provides an area for a gas grill, a built-in storage cabinet with a concrete countertop, and space for guests. Adjoining the lower



(Right) 5/4 deck boards finish off the space between an upper and lower deck, and doors provide access to under-the-deck storage space.

(Below) A cabinet to hold supplies is located on the edge of the deck with doors on both sides to provide access to the deck and patio. A concrete countertop with a Matcrete formed edge provides a work surface.



Lower deck boards extend under the deck to provide off-the-ground storage.

deck is a small brick patio. This provides space for the smoker and fish fryer, or in my case fryers for those times when I fry for a big party. No matter how hard you work at it, fish fryers splatter and drop grease, creating a clean-up and safety problem on a deck. By the same token, smokers require filling with hot coals and ashes, again a safety problem if done on a wooden deck.

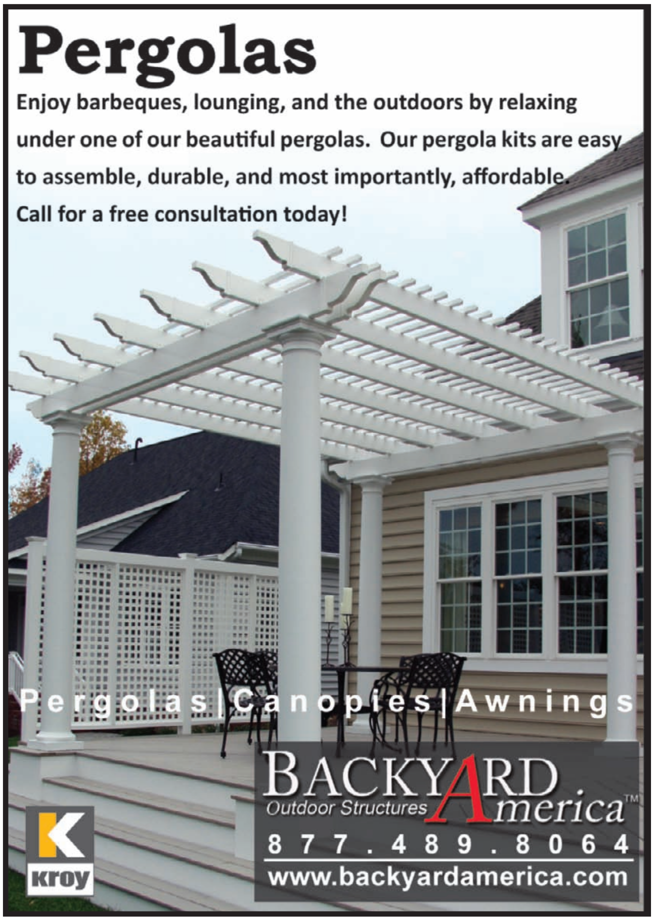
The space between the upper and lower decks has doors to create under-deck storage spaces. Depending on your equipment and cooking style you may wish to vary the center to suit your needs.

DECK IT FIRST

First step in creating the center shown is to build the deck. This is a straightforward deck construction. The deck shown was constructed of Hickson Wolmanized Residential Outdoor Re-dried (air-dried after treatment, ADAT) wood. This makes the wood lighter in weight and ready for immediate finish. A ledger board is fastened to the bottom edge of the upper level

First step is to frame in the deck, which is supported on pre-cast concrete pier blocks.

Joist hangers provide support for the deck framing.



Pergolas

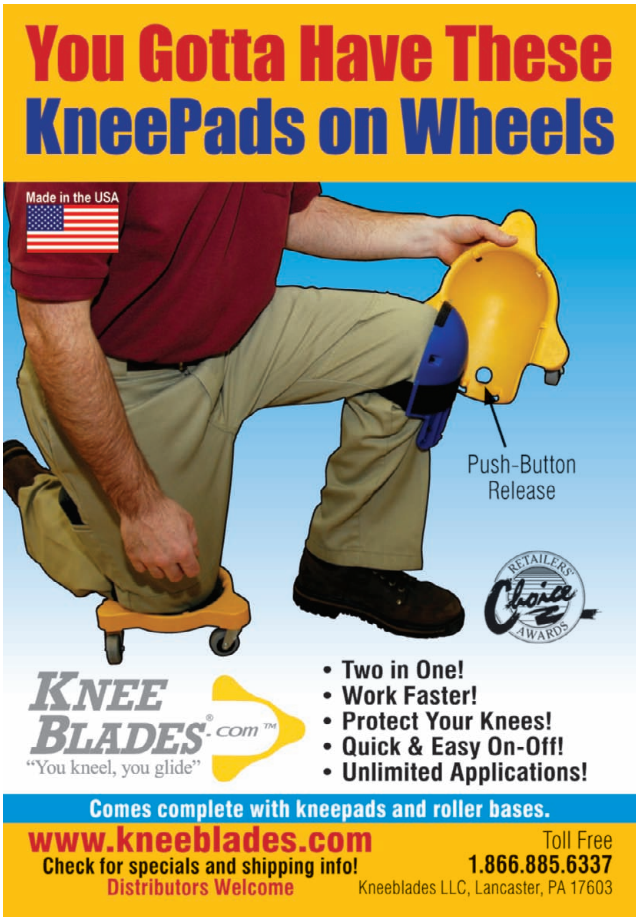
Enjoy barbeques, lounging, and the outdoors by relaxing under one of our beautiful pergolas. Our pergola kits are easy to assemble, durable, and most importantly, affordable.

Call for a free consultation today!

Pergolas | Canopies | Awnings

BACKYARD America™
Outdoor Structures
877.489.8064
www.backyardamerica.com

Kroy



You Gotta Have These KneePads on Wheels

Made in the USA

Push-Button Release

Retailers' Choice Awards

KNEE BLADES.com™
"You kneel, you glide"

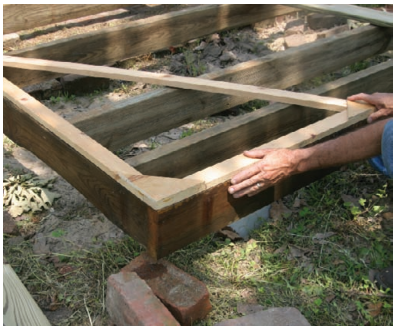
- Two in One!
- Work Faster!
- Protect Your Knees!
- Quick & Easy On-Off!
- Unlimited Applications!

Comes complete with kneepads and roller bases.

www.kneeblades.com
Check for specials and shipping info!
Distributors Welcome

Toll Free
1.866.885.6337
Kneeblades LLC, Lancaster, PA 17603

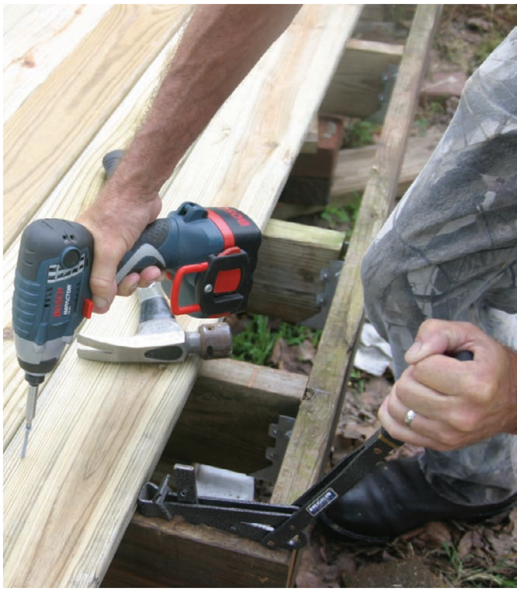
deck, making sure it is level. Then lay out the other three sides, using stakes, string line and a string level. The low-level deck shown was supported on pre-cast concrete deck piers, supported on concrete footings. Make sure you follow local codes and regulations on deck support for your area.



A large, shop-made 90-degree triangle makes it easy to square up the deck.

Use the triangle system of 3, 4 and 5 feet to lay the deck out square. Or you can build a large 90-degree triangle to check for square. The side headers are then attached to the ends of the ledger board, and the front header fastened between the side headers. Joist hangers provide support for the joists. Non-corrosive fasteners suitable for use with pressure-treated materials were used to assemble the deck.

The deck is covered with 5/4 radius-edge deck boards. The lower deck boards extend beneath the upper deck by 24 inches and are also supported on a joist and piers. This provides off-the-ground storage under the deck for items such as fish fryers, pool covers and other equipment. You can also add a covering under the deck



5/4 pressure-treated deck boards are fastened in place on the framing. A Vaughan Bo-Jack makes it easy to take the warp out of boards.

STAY OFF THAT LADDER!

LADDER SAVER™

THE LONG RANGE SOAP AND RINSE NOZZLE

FINALLY!
YOU CAN PRESSURE WASH A STRUCTURE WITHOUT LADDERS, SCAFFOLDING OR TELESCOPING WANDS!

SAVE TIME AND MONEY!

Stainless steel construction

Quick and easy single universal quick connect compression fitting

Can be used with virtually any pressure washer

Check out our demo video at www.LadderSaver.com
404-408-8071

Lam-Hammer
Makes Installing Laminate & Engineered Flooring a Breeze!

ELiminate
Cabinet Damage Drywall Pops

888.687.2421
For Complete Product Line Visit
www.lam-hammer.com

Once the deck boards are down, a chalk line is snapped and the edge sawn even.

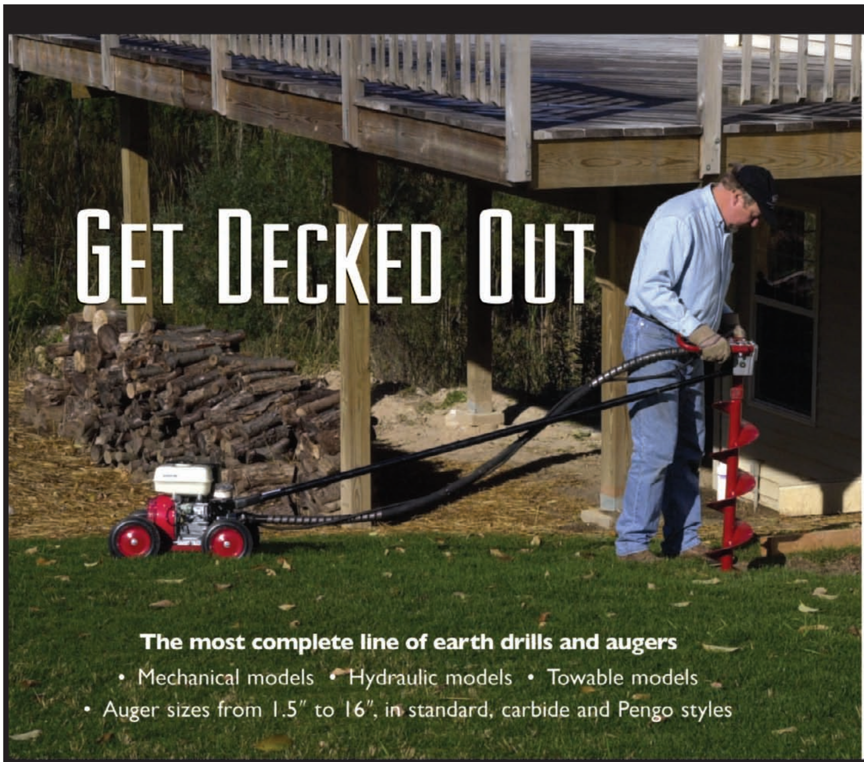
A light sanding removes chalk lines and rough spots.

to protect the gear from rainwater. A number of products are available, including: Underdeck (www.underdeck.com), RainEscape (www.rainescape.com) and TimberTech (www.timbertech.com).

With the deck assembled, the space between the upper and lower deck levels is covered over with 5/4 deck boards to match the deck. Two large doors are constructed, again using 5/4 material to provide easy access under the deck. Cleats on the back hold the upright boards together. A cross brace prevents the doors from eventually sagging. Large hinges and a sliding lock keep the doors in place. The deck, as well as the vertical 5/4 facers and doors are all finished with Sikkens Cetol SRD One-Coat wood finish in Cedar tone. A Black & Decker StainStick makes it easy to apply the material to the deck.

5/4 vertical facer boards finish off between the upper and lower decks.

A small brick patio on the end of the deck area is laid for the fryers and smoker. For more detailed deck construction, and finishing, as well as laying a brick patio see www.extremehowto.com.



The most complete line of earth drills and augers
• Mechanical models • Hydraulic models • Towable models
• Auger sizes from 1.5" to 16", in standard, carbide and Pengo styles

Little Beaver's patented torque tube eliminates the kickback found in competitive one-man augers. It also eliminates the need for two-man augers, cutting labor time by 50%. What isn't eliminated is unmatched speed, performance and quality.

All Little Beaver equipment is built construction tough with commercial engines, heavy-duty transmissions, and snap-on augers.

For over 50 years, we've offered the most complete line of earth drills and augers for the decking industry.

LITTLE BEAVER®
EARTH DRILLS & AUGERS

Ph: 800-227-7515 • Fax: (936) 327-4025 • www.littlebeaver.com • P.O.Box 840 • Livingston TX 77351

Rounded end 2 x 2's finish off the stair treads.

Storage doors are assembled from 5/4 material, pressure-treated deck, facer boards and doors are treated with Sikkens oil preservative and then hung in place.

BUILDING THE COOK'S CABINET

The storage cabinet is constructed on the end of the deck and next to the brick patio. Doors on both sides, allow access for equipment for the gas grill on the deck side and for charcoal and frying oil on the brick side for the smoker and fryers. The side facing the deck and gas grill has a shelf.

All frame work for the storage cabinet is pressure-treated lumber. It is not exposed to food prep or food storage. First step in constructing the

The cabinet is framed in place on the deck using 2 x 4's.

It's important the cabinet be constructed square ...

FOR INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR USE ONLY.

Our trim boards make great rake board outside or base board inside. Tongue and groove bead board? Equally at home as a porch ceiling outside or wainscoting inside. Our Moldings Collection adds the perfect finishing touch for interiors. Everything you need for interior and exterior applications. And it's all made from our high-quality, fingerjointed, triple-primed wood.

Manufactured in the U.S.A.

Always smooth, tight and clear.
Consistently true.
Technically superior.

Call 888/229-7900 or visit us at www.WindsorONE.com

WindsorONE™

... And plumb.

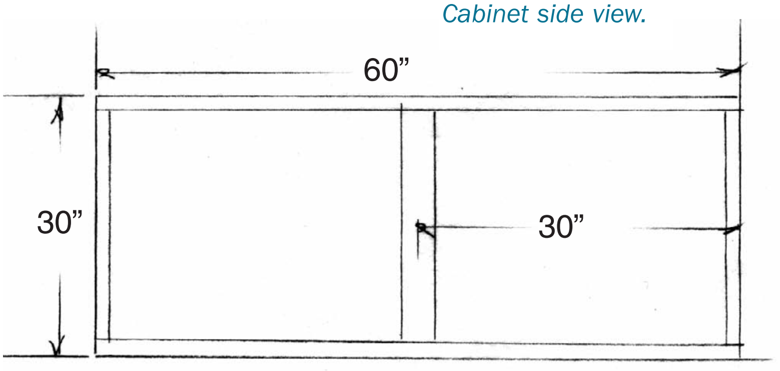
storage counter is to frame the sides with 2-by-4's, fastening with 3-inch deck screws. Fasten a center vertical divider/support 2-by-4 in place flush with the outside edges of the top and bottom 2-by-4's.

The outside frame on the project shown is positioned 4 inches in from the edge of the deck. Place the frame in position and use a square to make sure it is squared with the facers between the upper and lower deck, and is properly spaced from the deck edge.

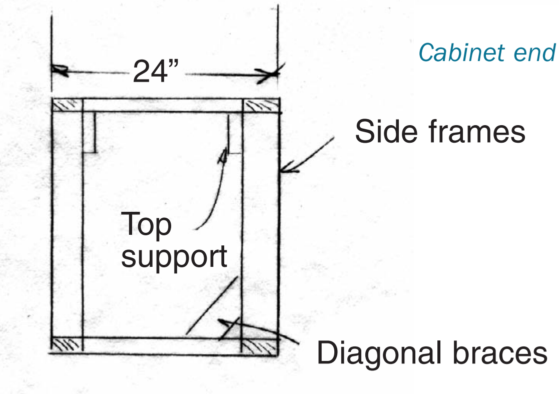
Level the top, providing a slight raise at the back for drainage. Use wood shims to achieve the level desired. Fasten the bottom plate down to the deck and into the joists. With the bottom anchored, use a level to plumb the back end of the frame and secure it to the upper deck, or vertical facer boards. Assemble the inside frame in the same manner. Locate the inside frame the proper distance from the outer frame, making sure it is square with the vertical facers and again anchor the bottom plate. Plumb the back of the frame and anchor it to the vertical facers. Fasten a 2-by-4 support block between the frames at the back, anchoring it to the vertical facers. Do the same for the bottom, between the frames.

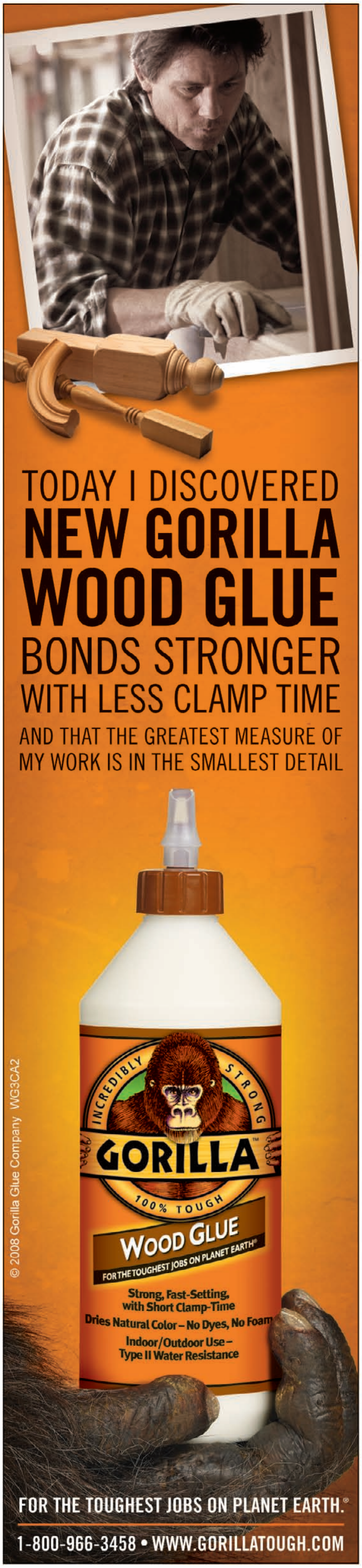
Cut a bottom spacer for the front or outer end and anchor it to the deck, and the bottom of the frames to it. Cut a diagonal brace, plumb up one side and

Cabinet side view.



Cabinet end view.


24”
Side frames
Top support
Diagonal braces


TODAY I DISCOVERED
NEW GORILLA
WOOD GLUE
BONDS STRONGER
WITH LESS CLAMP TIME
AND THAT THE GREATEST MEASURE OF
MY WORK IS IN THE SMALLEST DETAIL

INCREDIBLY STRONG
GORILLA
100% TOUGH
WOOD GLUE
FOR THE TOUGHEST JOBS ON PLANET EARTH®
Strong, Fast-Setting, with Short Clamp-Time
Dries Natural Color – No Dyes, No Foam
Indoor/Outdoor Use – Type II Water Resistance

FOR THE TOUGHEST JOBS ON PLANET EARTH.®
1-800-966-3458 • WWW.GORILLATOUGH.COM

© 2008 Gorilla Glue Company WG3CA2

fasten the brace in place. Then cut a top front spacer. This spacer is supported by blocks fastened to the inside edges of the side frames. Position the spacer in place, make sure the opposite frame is plumb and fasten the brace. Then anchor the opposite diagonal brace in place. A center top brace is added, supporting it on 2-by-4 blocks anchored to the center vertical supports.

CREATE A CONCRETE COUNTERTOP

The next step is to pour the concrete countertop. The countertop shown is poured in place, and the first step is to create the form. The edges of the countertop are formed using a Matcrete split-face granite edge form to create a unique natural-looking stone type texture. Made of high-quality polyurethane, the forms are easy to install. First step is to add a 2-by-4 support form around the cabinet. These are held in place with screws to the framework. In the case of the top shown, an additional 1-1/2 inch spacer was also used to allow for the extra width of the cabinet doors and sides. A 1-by-6 form is then added to the 2-by-4 forms. Then the Matcrete countertop edge forms are installed in place. It's important the Matcrete edge form extend slightly above the 1-by-6 form boards. The edge form is held in place with finish nails driven from the inside and into the 1-by-6 form boards. The edge form easily wraps around corners without mitering, but you will need a clamp to pull it in place to fasten.

The concrete top is formed in place. Form boards are anchored to the cabinet framing.

ARE YOU READY FOR THIS?

Check all that apply:

☐ I have a collection of old dull drill bits I just can't throw away.
☐ I'd rather spend my money on new tools than on buying more drill bits.
☐ I know I should sharpen my drill bits, but I don't have time to become a sharpening expert.
☐ I want to drill clean, precise holes every time.
☐ I'm tired of searching through all of my used bits trying to find one sharp enough to use.

If you checked any of these, you're ready to sharpen your drill bits with Drill Doctor, THE Drill Bit Sharpener. See it in action online at

www.drilldoctor.com

Drill Doctor® The Drill Bit Sharpener

FULL THREE 3 YEAR WARRANTY

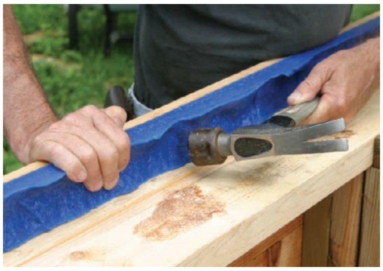
OVER 2 MILLION SOLD

1-888-MYDRILL (693-7455)

Look for the Drill Doctor at Sears, The Home Depot, Lowes, Northern Tool, and wherever you buy your tools.

The countertop shown utilized slightly rounded corners on the outside. A 1/2-inch plywood sheathing deck is then placed down on the top support boards, leaving space for the overhang. The plywood edges should be bevel cut at a 45-degree angle to provide more edge support. The plywood is anchored to the supports with screws.

The concrete is then mixed, and you can mix your own. Use sand and gravel mix, but you should avoid using large aggregate. The best choice is to buy a bagged mixture. A 5,000-psi bagged mixture such as Quikrete 5000 is the best choice for this type of pour. The countertop shown required three 80-pound bags. One bottle of Quikrete liquid cement color in terra cotta was added to the mix. The cement coloring agent is added to water and thoroughly mixed, then added to the dry concrete mix. Add only enough water at a time to blend the mix and water. For the mix shown you can start with 3/4-gallon of water per bag. A power mixer makes the chore easier, but I made the mix shown in a large wheel barrow using a concrete hoe to mix the ingredients thoroughly.


Matcrete 2" splitface Granite Countertop Edge Form is fastened in place with finish nails from the inside.

Quikrete Liquid Concrete Color is added to water, and mixed with bagged Quikrete concrete.

Sharpen All This...
With This
WORK SHARP The Tool Sharpener WS2000
FULL TWO 2 YEAR WARRANTY
Everybody likes to work with sharp tools, but not everybody likes the job of sharpening them. A bench grinder can be difficult to use—and dangerous. Welcome to the new world of tool sharpening. With the Work Sharp 2000, grinding and sharpening just about any kind of bladed tool is fast, easy, and dare we say it?—even fun. See a video demonstration online at **www.worksharptools.com**

WORK SHARP

From the makers of Drill Doctor The Drill Bit Sharpener

Ask for it at Sears, Ace Hardware, Menard's, or wherever you buy your tools.

Git-Rot®
Rx
for
Dry-Rotted
Wood

RESTORES STRENGTH OF WOOD

NO NEED TO REPLACE ROTTED WOOD

Rx
FOR DRY ROTTED WOOD
Git-Rot

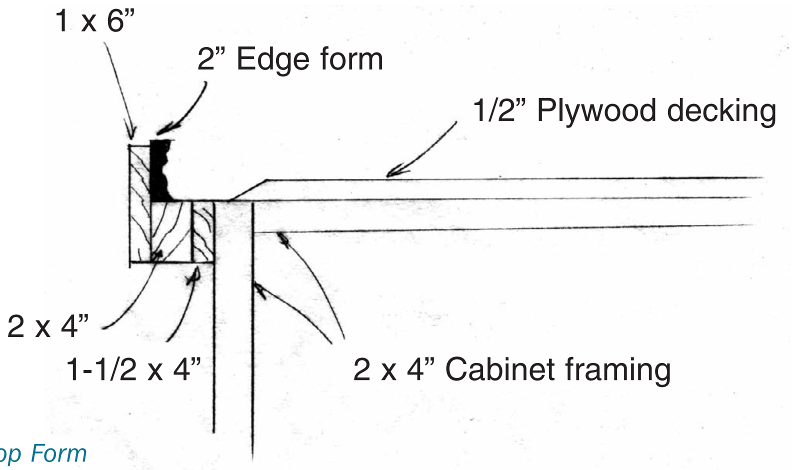
- 2-part penetrating epoxy that actually works better without removing dry rotted wood and fibers.
- Can be sanded and painted.
- Prevents the spread of dry-rot causing microorganisms.
- Great for large or small restoration projects.

BEFORE

AFTER

Perfect for use in joints, studs, beams and sills.

For Additional Information
Please Contact:
Life Industries Corporation,
4060 Bridgeview Drive,
N. Charleston, SC 29405
843.566.1225 Fax 843.566.1275
info@lifeindustries.com



Top Form

Once thoroughly mixed, with the coloring evenly distributed, shovel or use a small plastic bucket to pour the concrete into the form, using a trowel to spread it around as needed. You may wish to place drop cloths around the cabinet to prevent getting material onto the wooden deck. Once the form is filled, tap all around the sides with a hammer to settle the concrete and remove any air bubbles. Use a smooth board as a screed to drag off excess concrete, moving the board in a see-sawing motion as you pull off the concrete. Use a trowel to fill in any low spots as you screed and then use a wooden float to remove excess

A concrete hoe is used to thoroughly mix the water and concrete.

It’s important to lightly tap the form boards to settle the material and remove any air bubbles.

The concrete is poured into the form and a board used to screed or level the pour.

After a short curing time, the top is smoothed with a trowel.

water and further smooth the surface. Allow the concrete to set until it just slightly dents, then use a smooth-faced metal trowel to smooth the surface. The more you trowel and the more pressure you apply, the finer the surface finish will be.

Allow the concrete to cure. For a moist cure, and stronger pour, lightly mist the surface after troweling and cover with plastic sheeting. The countertop should be protected with a concrete sealer to provide protection from water damage, freeze/thaw cycles and chipping. Quikrete Concrete Sealer can be applied while the surface is still damp, but not wet. Or you can apply Thompson Water Seal Concrete Care Sealer 30 days after the pour.

After 24 hours of curing, the form boards were removed. Curing should be continued for five days in warm weather and up to seven days in cold weather. Do not allow the concrete to freeze until completely cured.

The top shown was left as is, but concrete will stain. You can grind and polish the top to a high sheen and use a gloss sealer if you prefer. To grind and polish, use an angle grinder or orbital sander with progressively finer grits, using water as a slurry on the top. Note: Make sure you use a GFCI protected circuit for this chore.

COMPLETING THE KITCHEN

The next step is to finish out the cabinet by adding the covering and doors. The cabinet shown was covered with Western Red Cedar lap siding and rough-sawn board trim to match the siding and trim on the house. The siding pieces were first treated with

MATERIALS LIST

- **Side top and bottoms**
  2 x 4 x 60”, 4 req’d.
- **Side ends**
  2 x 4 x 27-1/2”, 4 req’d.
- **Side center supports**
  2 x 4 x 27-1/2”, 2 req’d.
- **End bottom and top supports**
  2 x 4 x 17”, 4 req’d.
- **Top Center Support**
  2 x 4 x 17”, 1 req’d.
- **Support blocks**
  2 x 4 x 6”, 6 req’d.
- **Brown trim**
  3/4 x 2” (cut to fit)
  53 feet req’d.
- **Green trim**
  3/4 x 1-3/4” (cut to fit)
  16 feet req’d.
- **Siding**
  Lap siding (cut to fit)
  77 feet req’d.
- **Form boards**
  2 x 4 (cut to fit)
  16 feet req’d.
- **Form boards**
  1 x 6 (cut to fit)
  16 feet req’d.
- **Edge form**
  152” req’d.
- **Concrete**
  80# bags Quikrete
  3 req’d.
- **Concrete color**
  one bottle

Families Have Saved Up To 50% On Heating Costs

And never have to buy fuel — wood, oil, gas, kerosene — ever again!

Your Benefits with Hydro-Sil:

- Slash heating cost with Hydro-Sil technology
- Lifetime warranty. No service contracts
- Safe, complete peace of mind
- Clean, no fumes, environmentally safe
- U.L. listed
- Preassembled — ready to use
- No furnaces, ducts, or chimneys
- Portable (110V) or permanent (220V)
- Whole house heating or single room

Proportional energy saving thermostat!

Lifetime Warranty

Hydro-Sil is a duct-free/furnace-free high performance room-by-room heating system that can save you hundreds of dollars in home heating costs by replacing old and inefficient heating. It can replace or supplement your electric heat, gas or oil furnace and woodstoves.

Hydro-Sil represents economy in heating: inside the heater case is a sealed copper tube filled with a harmless silicone fluid. It’s permanent. You’ll never run out. Hydro-Sil “Energy Smart” thermostat controls a variable watt hydro element that is only being supplied a proportional amount of power on an as-needed basis. The silicone liquid is quickly heated, and with its heat retention qualities, continues to heat after the Hydro element shuts off. Hydro-Sil’s digital proportional control technology greatly increases energy savings and comfort.

220 VOLT PERMANENT	Approx. Area to Heat	Discount Price	Quantity
8' 2000 watts	250-300 s.f.	$309	
6' 1500 watts	180-250 s.f.	$279	
5' 1250 watts	130-180 s.f.	$259	
4' 1000 watts	100-130 s.f.	$229	
3' 750 watts	75-100 s.f.	$189	
2' 500 watts	50-75 s.f.	$169	
Thermostats	Call for options & exact heater needed		

110 VOLT PORTABLES (Thermostat Included)	Discount Price	Quantity
5' Hydro-Max 750-1500 watts	$229	
4' Convector – Dual watt	$179	
3' 750 watts – Silicone	$179	
$18.00 shipping per heater	$ ____________	
Total Amount	$ ____________	

Order today or contact us for more info.
Check ■ MasterCard ■ Visa
1-800-627-9276
www.hydrosil.com
Hydro-Sil, P.O. Box, 662, Fort Mill, SC 29715

Name________________
Address________________
City________________ St________ Zip________
Phone________________
MasterCard or Visa Account Information:
Acct #________________
Expiration Date________________

OUTDOOR COOKING

The *Extreme How-To* staff loves to cook, and here are some recommended cookers for your backyard retreat.

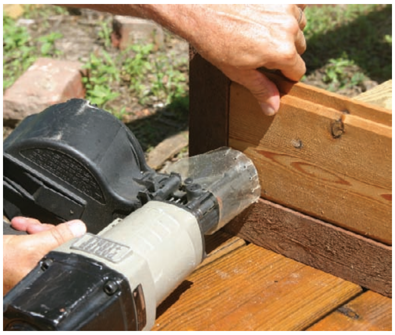
Monte Burch — "I've been using a Good-One charcoal smoker for many years. It's an indirect heat, dry smoker. It doesn't have a water pan as do some smokers. This type of smoker provides true, pit-barbeque flavor and is extremely easy to use. Merely fire up the charcoal, add some wood chunks and adjust the dampers. The smoker will cook at 225 degrees for hours without needing attention (www.thegood-one.com).

I've also used fish and turkey fryers from Bass Pro Shops for many years and their Stainless Steel Steamer/Fry Combo is an excellent choice. It comes with everything you need for frying and steaming, including a 10-1/2 quart stainless steel pot with basket and a large 30-quart pot with lid, strainer rack and lifter (www.basspro.com)."

Matt Weber — "I'm partial to the Big Green Egg, a ceramic 'kamado style' smoker that looks like it sounds. It serves as a smoker, a grill and an oven. Use it to smoke turkeys, grill steaks or bake a pizza; it all turns out great. The ceramic walls evenly retain heat for easy temperature control without hot spots, and the end result is some of the juiciest meats you've ever grilled. I've had one for about 3 years and swear by it. I even bought one for my dad (www.biggreenegg.com)."

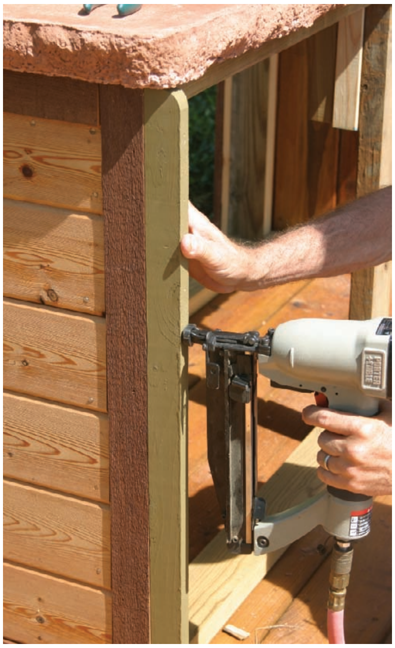
Thompson's WaterSeal Waterproofer, and the trim strips with Thompson's WaterSeal Waterproofer plus Tinted Wood Protector. Strips of green trim added to the décor.

The cedar siding for the fixed portions including the end are first fastened in place using stainless steel siding nails. The brown-stained wooden trim strips are added over the siding using stainless steel finish nails. Then the green-painted



Western Red Cedar siding and rough-sawn boards are used to enclose and finish off the cabinet.

Green-painted trim strips add to the décor.



Big Green Egg®
The World's Best Smoker and Grill

The Best Outdoor Cooking Starts With An EGG®!

- The EGG is a grill, a smoker and an oven
- Double-wall, space-age ceramics make it durable and fuel efficient
- Natural lump charcoal gives food EGGstraordinary flavor
- 750 degree heat produces steakhouse searing
- Maintains low, even temperature to develop "pit-BBQ" tenderness
- Bakes better than a brick oven – pizza, bread, even desserts

For more information visit
www.biggreenegg.com

Big Green Egg
World's Best Smoker and Grill!

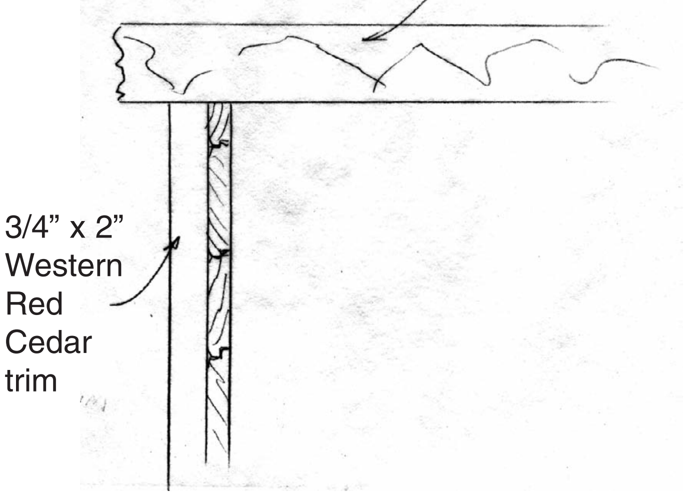
Doors are constructed and hung on the cabinet.

accent strips are fastened in place with stainless steel finish nails. Wooden facer trim boards are added to the areas surrounding the doors. The doors are constructed using siding and brown-stained trim boards. They are assembled by placing the cut trim siding boards in place on a smooth, flat surface, then attaching the siding boards to their backs with Titebond III wood glue and staples driven from the siding into the trim boards. The doors are hung with hidden hinges and held in place with heavy-duty magnetic catches. Green-painted knobs finish off the cabinet.

Add chairs and a table for entertaining guests while you cook. Deck lighting can also be added both for ambience and night-time cooking. More on deck lighting in a future issue of *Extreme How-To*. **EHT**

Editor's Note: *Monte Burch is the author of a number of wild-game dressing and cooking books as well as numerous how-to build-it books. (www.monteburch.com)*

Side and door details.



IceBlox Inc., D.B.A
SNOBLOX SNOJAX
The Originator of Polycarbonate Snow Guards!
www.SNOJAX.com
www.SNOBLOX.com
Without Snow Guards
With Snow Guards.
Get INSTANT Snow Guard Estimates & Spacing Layouts at
www.SPACINGTOOL.com
LEAFBLOX by GutterBrush Guys LLC
Easy Gutter Leaf Protection
www.LEAFBLOX.com
Toll Free: 1-800-SNOJAX-1
Ph: 717-697-1999
1405 Brandton Rd
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

A Step-by-Step Guide to Repairing a Concrete Walkway

WALK AWAY

REPLACING A SECTION OF SIDEWALK

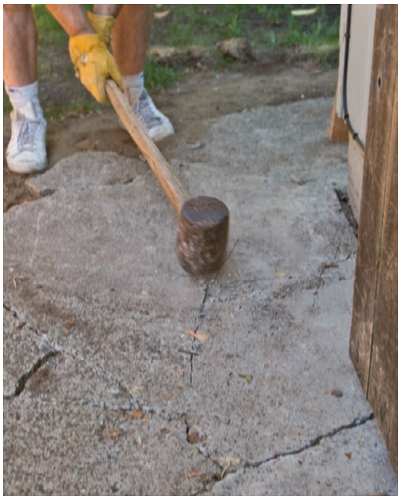
By Larry Walton

I hadn’t paid any attention to the sidewalk that goes from my neighbor Andy’s RV parking area to the backyard, until he made a couple of trips over it with the backhoe. Oops! Now, to their credit, this sidewalk was not done right the first time and wouldn’t hold up to a big ol’ boy on a bicycle, let alone a backyard-seeking backhoe. It was just too thin, especially along the edges.

Of course, the goal here is not to place blame, but to get the walkway into top form so Andy and Kaye could put their house on the market in preparation for moving to Europe (which really stinks because they are good friends and we’re going to miss them). But I digress. We tackled the sidewalk repair with a minimum of blood and tears, so we figured you could benefit from seeing how we did it.

The original walk was probably an afterthought using some extra concrete left over from a foundation pour. “Hey, we still got some mud on the truck—need some sidewalk or anything?" Whether or not the original involved too much beer, it certainly didn't get formed to proper depth.

On the plus side, the existing walk was so thin we were able to bust up the concrete with a sledge hammer. If your concrete tear-out project was built better than ours you will probably need to rent a jack hammer to break it up enough to remove it. Of course, we should have used the backhoe while we had it there!



Remember, the goal in breaking up the old walk is to get pieces small enough to handle without having piles of small rubble, so don't get too carried away.

A mattock is a good tool for lifting the re-sized concrete chunks out of the ground. Once you get a few pieces loose, remove them before busting up more. This gives the concrete in the adjacent areas room to break off.

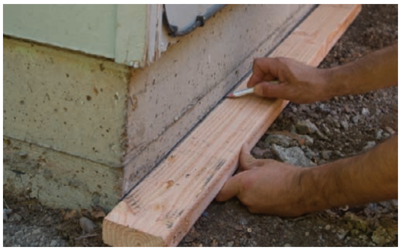
It goes without saying that concrete is quite dense, so don't overload your wheelbarrow. Keeping more than half a load up front makes it easier to lift and balance the wheelbarrow.

We tossed the chunks of concrete into my pickup. With apologies to bedliner manufacturers, projects like this are why I leave the inside of my pickup bed stock—and yup, it gets "all narfed up" according to my brother. But it makes it easier to slide loads in and out, as well as easier to sweep and hose out. I figure if and when I get ready to sell the truck I can add a liner.

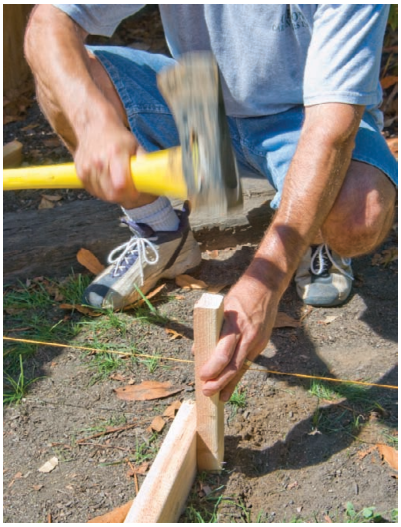
We had a couple of options for disposal of the concrete. Our local dump and recycle centers both had areas for "rubble." The local sand and gravel company also has an area designed to receive "fill." Our choice was made on proximity and fee level.

BUILDING THE FORMS

We used a laser level to mark several points along the foundation wall. We then used a piece of 2-by-4 and a carpenter's pencil to make a heavy pencil line on the foundation to indicate the level of concrete along the house side of the walkway.



A piece of concrete elevated a 2-by-4 to grade while a level on top transferred the elevation out to the edge of the walk. We set the outside edge of the walk 1-inch below the house-side grade

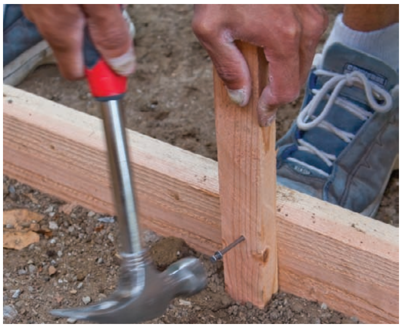


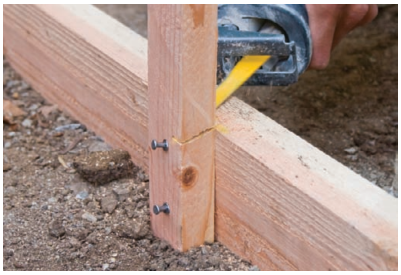
to get the required 1/4-inch-per-foot drainage drop.

We laid out the concrete areas with a string and cut the form boards to match the strings. We made wood stakes and drove them in the ground to support the form boards.

Although our crew has miter saws and table saws available, we usually do all of our wood cutting with a circular saw when we're working on concrete projects. This includes ripping for stakes and screed parts.

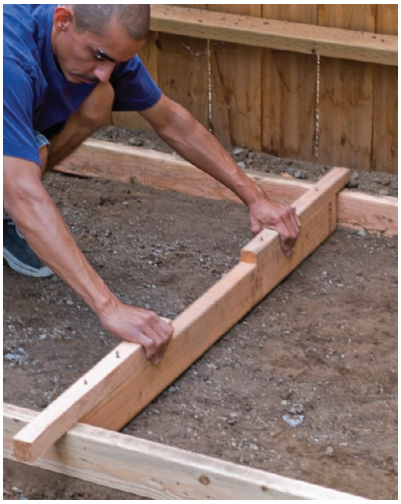
We nailed the wood stakes to the form boards with duplex-head nails for easy removal when the concrete is set.





A reciprocating saw made short work of trimming off the stakes at form-top level. Flush stakes make things much easier during the fine grading, pouring and finishing process.

We used a 2-by-4 with a support piece nailed on top as a fine-grade screed. The fine-grade screed acts as a depth gauge and scraper to get consistent depth, something the previous sidewalk did not have.



STICKY ASS GLUE
STUBBORNLY STRONG!

The only thing worse than finding yourself in an EXTREMELY sticky DIY situation....

Is finding yourself in an EXTREMELY Un-Sticky DIY situation.

THAT'S WHERE WE COME IN!
Bonds Great. Less Foam.

www.stickyassglue.com
Tel: (877) 845-8530
Fax: (626) 698-0668
glue@stickyassglue.com

Proud Member of the WORLDWIDE WDIYC DO-IT-YOURSELF COUNCIL

100% Waterproof! Made in the U.S.A!

Because we knew the ground was well compacted under our project, we made sure not to dig too deep but rather to dig down to the desired grade without loosening the gravel/dirt mix underneath. We avoided needing to re-compact the area. On larger slabs where cracking may be an issue, we plan for several inches or 3/4-inch minus crushed rock to be compacted.

A flat-point shovel is a good tool to remove dirt scraped off during the fine grading process.

The flat point helps maintain an even plane in the formed area and works well against the form boards to get the dirt out.

We used some of the extra dirt material as back-fill to help strengthen the form boards and minimize concrete leaks.

POURING THE SLAB

We called Nation's Mini-mix in Eugene, Oregon (www.nationsminimix.com) for the concrete. Nation's process mixes the concrete on site. You can get just the amount you need.

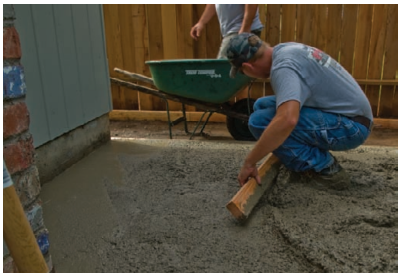
With the forms set, fine-grading done and the truck backing into position, we sprayed the entire area with water to keep the forms and dirt from drawing too much moisture out of the concrete mix.

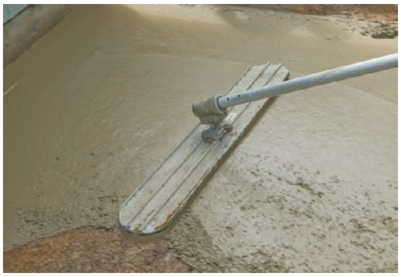
SAND
Nation's MINI-MIX INC.
SMALL YARDAGE CONCRETE
686-3031
nationsminimix.com

Once the truck is on site, it's very important to keep things moving. Concrete providers usually have a per yard off-loading time requirement. If you take too long to pour, they'll charge you extra for stand-by time. Using two wheelbarrows speeds up the process of getting the mud from the truck to the pour site.

Depending on the shape of your pour, a pair of rubber boots lets you get right into the thick of things to muck that mud into the corners of the formed areas.

We used 2-by-4s as screed boards for grading the concrete flush with the top of the existing walk and form boards. We rented a bull float along with its long handles and reversible edge control to smooth the concrete and start the process of working the larger aggregate away from the surface.





With one section poured and the temporary dividing form board removed, we started adding concrete to the next section. The screed for the second section bridges over the form board on one side and over the fresh concrete of the first section on the other to

determine grade height. Keep working the concrete back with the screed board and watch for any voids. If you keep a little mud piled up along the leading edge of the screed then you know you have the forms full to avoid low spots.

Of course, dumping the right amount of concrete with the wheelbarrow can save a lot of work moving material around within the forms.

In addition to the bull float, we used a magnesium float to work some "fines" to the top for a smooth finish. After waiting for the concrete to set up a bit, we used a trowel to smooth the surface. The key is keeping the leading edge up while making each pass with the trowel.

When the concrete is set up enough for troweling, you can get

Schluter Systems

PROFILE OF INNOVATION

1. KERDI waterproofing membrane 2. KERDI Drain
3. KERDI waterproofing strip 4. Shower curb
5. Shower tray *(available in different sizes)*

www.schluter.com

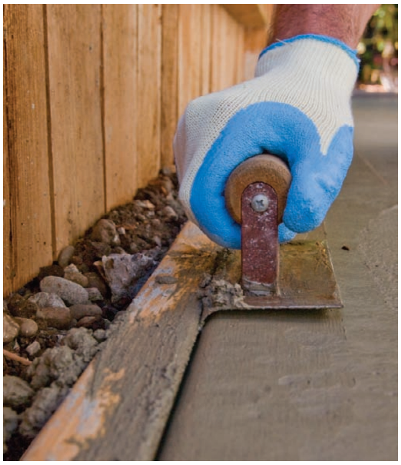
Schluter® SHOWER SYSTEM

A watertight tile shower assembly for bathroom renovations

- All the components necessary to build a fully bonded, watertight assembly for tiled showers
- Prefabricated sloped tray eliminates mortar bed, reducing weight and installation time
- No waiting time between steps; tiles can be installed immediately
- Components are made of inorganic materials that do not promote mold growth
- Protects wall cavities against water and vapor penetration

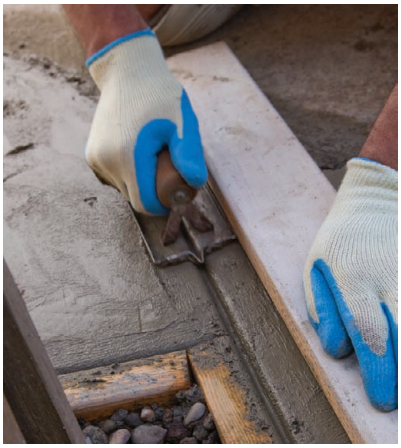
See installation video at schluter.com or call 1-800-472-4588 for an information kit.

on it with knee boards, which in our case were scraps of plywood. Knee boards allowed us to reach the areas against the house during the finishing process.



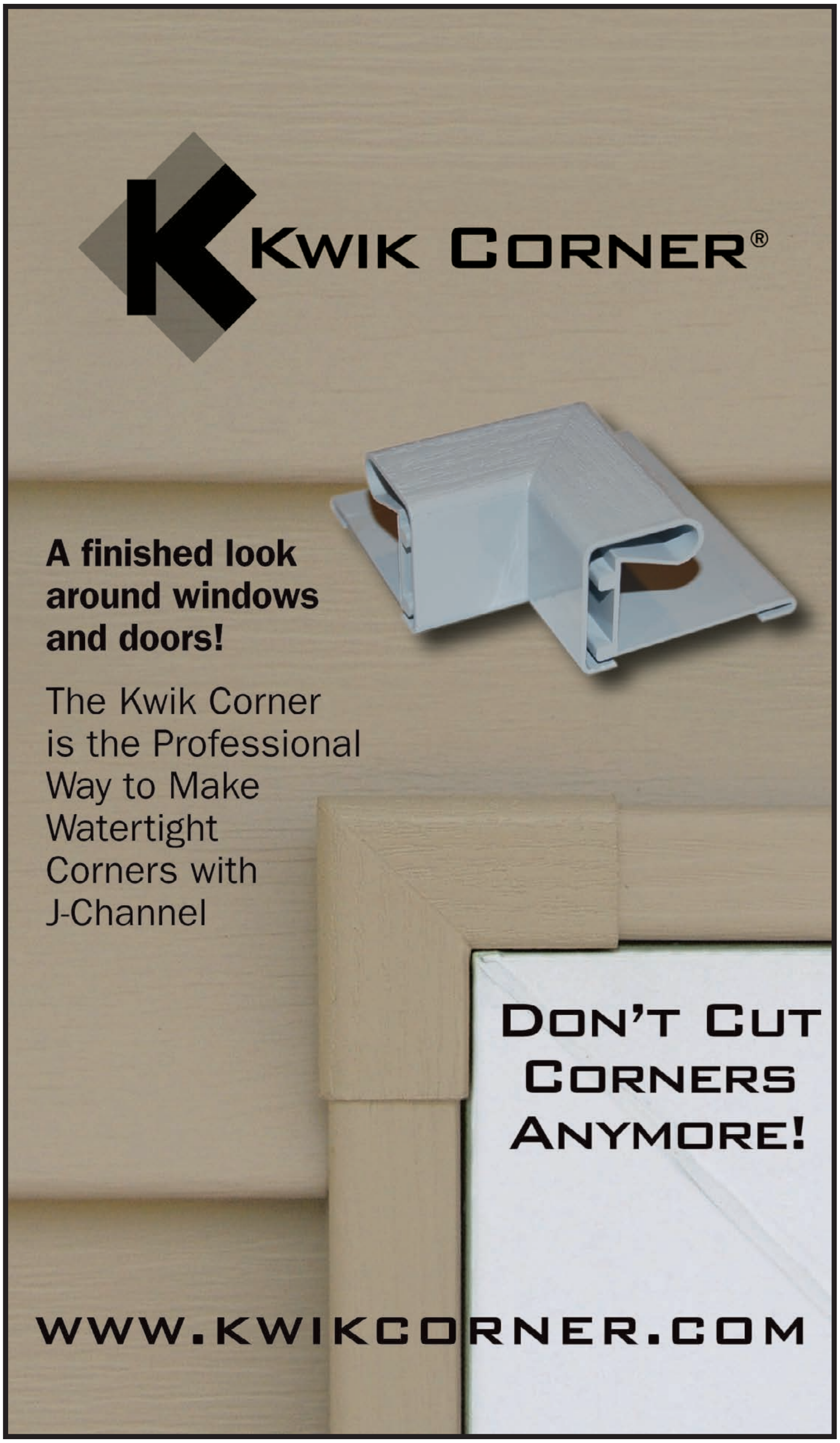
We used an edge tool to finish the sides against the form boards. An edge tool is a special trowel with a radius on one side, which takes the sharp corner off of the sidewalk edge.

We used a joint tool to press a crease into the concrete that lined up with the inside corner. We usually put joints in a sidewalk about every 4 to 6 feet, but in this case we had a hard-to-reach stretch between the house and fence and some odd geometry where we wanted an extended corner.



We used a 2-by-4 as a straight edge to lay out the joint. It takes some pressure to push the larger aggregate into the mud and several passes to make the joint smooth.

We put a broom finish on our sidewalk to provide traction and cover up minor imperfections in the finish.



KWIK CORNER®

A finished look around windows and doors!

The Kwik Corner is the Professional Way to Make Watertight Corners with J-Channel

DON'T CUT CORNERS ANYMORE!

WWW.KWIKCORNER.COM

BREAKING DOWN & WRAPPING UP

After the concrete sets up for a couple of days it's time to strip the forms. We used the mattock to get under the form boards and pry them up. Of course, you can pull the duplex nails first, but sometimes leaving them in makes it easier to get the stakes out of the ground. In any case, be careful not to damage the edge of the concrete.

A hoe or flat-point shovel make good scrapers to remove extra concrete from the form boards. You can save your form boards for future concrete projects or use them for shed construction. Be sure to watch for nails and residual concrete when cutting used form boards.

Although we formed our project with plenty of fall for drainage, we still tested it with a bucket of water. The sidewalk passed the test. **EHT**

MATERIALS LIST

- Sledge hammer
- Mattock
- 2x4s
- Circular saw
- Reciprocating saw
- Tape
- String
- Hammer
- Duplex nails
- Wheel barrow
- Garden hose
- Shovels
- Level
- Bull float
- Mag float
- Concrete trowel
- Edger
- Jointer
- Concrete finishing broom

Goddard Spiral Stairs

- CUSTOM DESIGNED
- HANDCRAFTED
- BUILT TO YOUR SPECS!

At Goddard Manufacturing Co., we specialize in custom designed, handcrafted spiral staircases - built to your specifications. You can choose from several different styles of spiral staircases and our professional craftsmen can custom design a spiral staircase to fit almost any application.

Goddard Manufacturing Company
PO Box 502, Logan KS 67646

Toll Free: 800-536-4341

www.spiral-staircases.com

GENERAL®

Thanks to Recent Corporate Acquisitions
and Our Product Development Focus,
We're BURSTING with Award Winning Innovations!

RETAILERS' Choice AWARDS
THE SAW/DRIVE
QUAD
HAWK
Ratchet Action
Pipe Wrench
ULTRATECH™
TOOL SYSTEM
GENERAL

General Tools & Instruments™
80 White Street, New York, NY 10013-3567
TEL: 212. 431. 6100 TOLL FREE: 800. 697. 8665
sales@generaltools.com www.generaltools.com

Introducing the NEW General Tools & Instruments!

- We made Two Significant Corporate Acquisitions
- We Added Specialty Instruments To Our Expanding Product Line
- We've Established A New Product Development Focus
- We're Delivering Innovative Product Solutions To A Wider Customer Base
- We Changed Our Name
- We're Winning Awards!

VERSA-GRIP
Precision Engineered Handles
GENERAL
DMM40
AM35UL
DCO1001
IRT206
WA500
Water Leak Alarm
Popular Mechanics
EDITOR'S CHOICE AWARDS 2007

Review Our NEW Products at
www.generaltools.com/newgeneral

COOL TOOLS
AT THE

Greatest
Homewares
lawn & garden WORLD
Homewares
Booths 30,000 - 38,999
HARDWARE SHOW
CONVENTION CENTER
LOCATIONS:

NATIONAL HARDWARE SHOW®

By Matt Weber

In May the *EHT* staff attended the 63rd annual National Hardware Show in Las Vegas, which saw a 14-percent increase in attendance from the 2007 event. This year's show included more than 3,500 exhibitors and 150 product categories in over 750,000 square feet.

"The National Hardware Show offers the best preview of the latest and most innovative home-enhancement products in one location," says Dennis MacDonald, senior vice president, national Hardware Show. "This is really the only place to find everything consumers need for their homes—both indoor and outdoor."

Here's a roundup of some new products that caught our eye on the show floor.

BIG SLIDER

The Big Slider utility mover is a 2-by-5-foot sheet made of durable high-density polyethylene that is possibly even more versatile than a wheelbarrow when it comes to moving heavy items. And there's no need to lift the items as you would with a wheelbarrow. Pull the

TG® KIK® PRO SERIES

www.MyTGTools.com

FASTER
EASIER
CLEANER

TG 7/8"
1
7/8
5/8
1/2
3/8
1/4 Universal Hex Shank (For Quick Change
TG Tools
www.mytgtools.com
3/8
5/16
9/32
1/4
3/16
5/32
1/8
1/4 Unive
Hex Sha
(For Quick C
TG Tools
www.mytgtools.com

KIK® Spade Bit KIK® HS Brad Point KIK® Forstner Bit

www.MyTGTools.com 1-800-687-4122

TG® Tools • 1010 Cedar Ave. • St. Charles, IL 60174 • ph 800-687-4122 • fax 630-584-4722

mat by the integrated handle or add rope extensions for large loads to extend the usable surface of the mat. Plus, the Big Slider works great on all surfaces—inside or out—including bagged concrete, brick, tile, wood, gravel and carpet. Move anything from boxes and cabinets to sod and rocks. (www.bigslider.com)

WonderPaint

"GREEN" Products that Perform

249 Old Zion Church Road Woodburn, KY 42170 270-529-0056

NuKlear

Wood Sealer Stops Mold and Algae

Wonder25

Hi-Tech Elastomeric Paint

LikeNu

Polymer Concrete Coating Applies Like Paint

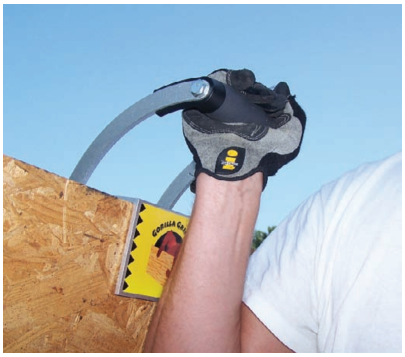
Before

After

www.wonderpaint.com

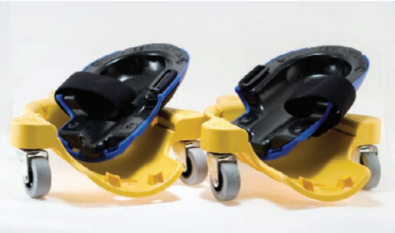
GORILLA GRIPPER

The Gorilla Gripper from Landon Innovations makes it easy for a single person to carry large sheet goods such as plywood and drywall. The Gorilla Gripper clamps at the top of the panel so the user can carry it comfortably at shoulder height. It's constructed of aircraft-grade aluminum plates with special rubber gripping pads and a cushioned handle. Also handy for ladder work, the gripper takes the hassle out of schlepping sheet material around the work site. It comes highly recommended for pros and DIY'ers who often work without a helper. (www.gorillagripper.com)



KNEE BLADES

Knee Blades are knee pads on wheels. If you've done much flooring work—or any job where you spend significant time on your knees—then you can imag-



ine the ease of movement these accessories can offer. Knee pad inserts fit into the durable three-wheeled bases. The pads are injection-molded from black gel material for maximum comfort and balance. Plus, the pads can be used with or without the roller base; simply push a button to release the base. The Velcro straps on the pads are adjustable and padded for comfort. (www.kneeblades.com)

ZIP SANDER

The Zip Sander from Ali Industries is a simple, lightweight foam sanding block that offers two unique features. First, unlike hard sanding blocks, the foam construction is all about ergonomics—making the grip contoured and comfortable with plenty of pliability in the material so it's easier on the hands during heavy usage. Second, the pre-sized abrasive sheets pop on and off the bottom of the block with a hook-and-loop system, so there are no clamps to hassle with, and it's not necessary to cut the sheets to size. (www.zipsander.com)

HEAT SEEKER

The Heat Seeker is a gun-style, remote sensing, infra-red thermometer that can obtain accurate temperature readings

Prest-on®
DRYWALL INSTA-BACKS
"A slick trick in wall repair."

Tired of wasting time repairing holes in walls? Try Prest-on® Insta-back® drywall clips! They make repairing holes easier and quicker than other methods and are compliant with ALL building codes.

For more information or to order visit our website, www.prest-on.com or call 800.323.1813

instantly, without having to physically contact the object. Affordably priced for the consumer, the Heat Seeker features a backlit LCD display with built-in laser sighting. Simply aim the laser pointer at a specific location for an instant temperature reading. The practical distance-to-spot ratio of 8:1 and a measurement range of minus -4 to 605 degrees Fahrenheit is suited for most consumer and commercial applications. The Heat Seeker is easy to use for detecting energy loss around doors and windows, ovens and microwaves, insulation, ductwork and other areas throughout homes. (www.generaltools.com)

DEAD ON STEEL FRAMER

This fierce-looking, all-steel Dead On framing hammer from Pull'r Holding Company, LLC, features an I-beam neck for tough construction with less weight. It has a unique patent-pending head design that helps balance the tool weight for a great swing, as well as an integrated magnetic nail set located beneath the face of the hammer. Not only is this one tough framing hammer, but it simply looks very cool, with the black trim and skull-and-crossbones logo on the rubber-covered hammer. (www.deadontools.com)

FOREARM FORKLIFT

The patented Forearm Forklift Lifting Straps provide increased leverage that makes the objects you carry seem 66-percent lighter. Made of high-strength webbing, the straps are rated to support up to 700 pounds per pair. They're also designed to encourage proper lifting techniques. In fact, the Forearm Forklifts are the only OSHA-accepted moving tool ever to reduce potential injuries due to heavy and repetitive lifting. They

ORGANIZATION
SIMPLIFIED
WaLL Control
ALL STEEL STORAGE
LAUNDRY
GARDEN
www.wallcontrol.com
(770)-723-1251
MADE IN U.S.A.

also keep wheeled dollies from scuffing finished flooring. Each pack contains two 9-foot, 4-inch-long straps that are 3 inches wide. Each strap is adjustable up to 48 inches. (www.forearmforklift.com)

CHECKPOINT U6 V-GROOVE LEVEL

We've never seen a level like the U6 V-Groove from Checkpoint. Its patented design incorporates more degree readings than any other level in its class to meet any leveling needs with readings at 0, 22.5, 30, 45, 60 and 90 degrees. And with a 45 min./arc reading bubble vial, you get precise and accurate readings every time. The U6 V-Groove features a deep groove system that's designed to fit radius pipes and conduits to give clear, easy-to-see readings every time. It also has 16 rare-earth magnets for incredible holding strength on any steel pipe, conduit or tubing where precision bends are required. (www.checkpointlevels.com)

U6
CHECKPOINT
90 DEG
0 DEG

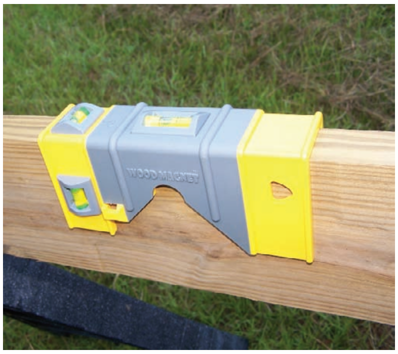
CONCROBIUM MOLD CONTROL

Concrobium Mold Control from Siamons International eliminates and prevents mold and musty odors. EPA-registered, Mold Control is an eco-friendly mold solution for consumers, which contains no bleach, ammonia, VOC or other harmful chemicals. Application is easy; just apply undiluted Concrobium Mold Control onto the moldy surfaces, wipe of any excess and allow it to dry. The product has no odor, meaning you don't have to open windows or vacate the area after using it. For spot applications, use the 32-ounce spray bottle or 1-gallon jug. (www.concrobium.com)

concrobium
mold control

SWANSON WOOD MAGNET

Swanson's Wood Magnet fits over the edge of a piece of 2-by construction lumber, compressing around it for a firm hold. This frees the hands of the user to level it or use the lumber itself as a level. It's a great tool for leveling joists and beams, as well as for leveling grades and screeding sidewalks and slabs.



18" Cast Metal
Tile & Roof Scraper
#19430
12" Stainless
Steel Brush
#46831
HYDE®

Extreme Surface Prep

Try these tough new tools from HYDE® for industrial grade scraping and stripping. See our full line of over 20 new brushes and scrapers online or call customer service for a catalog.
Get serious, get HYDE®.

www.hydetools.com
800-USA-HYDE

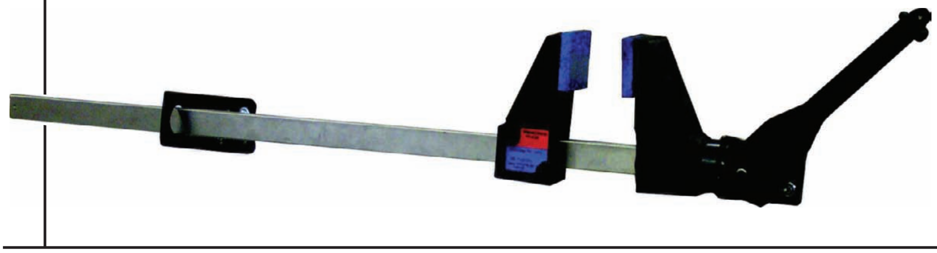
For a better finish, start with HYDE.™

©2008 Hyde Tools, Inc. All rights reserved. 08-098

Thanks to a built-in rubber band, it works vertically as a post level, too. The Wood Magnet is very simple in design, but durably constructed to stand up to the rigors of the jobsite. (www.swansontoolco.com)

VERSACLAMP

The VersaClamp from Penntek Tools functions as two clamps in one. It changes from a bench-mounted vise system to a standard bar clamp. The VersaClamp can transform a sawhorse, workbench or tailgate into a hands-free clamping center. When mounted, the jaws rotate to work at any angle. It can be removed in seconds from the mounting brackets to act as a standard bar clamp. Plus, when the clamp is engaged, the handle can pivot out of the way as needed. The VersaClamp's cam-locking feature can generate up to 400 pounds of clamping force, regardless of the user's hand strength. (www.pennunited.com)



PERFECT PAINT LINES
TAPE-SEAL
Acrylic
NEW
STOPS PAINT BLEED
16 oz.

TAPE-SEAL

Tape-Seal is a clear acrylic gel designed to seal the edge of painter's masking tape by filling the small voids at the tapes edge. This creates a barrier that prevents paint from bleeding under the tape, leaving a clean, sharp paint line. Tape off areas

T-JAK®

ALL PURPOSE SUPPORT TOOL

The T-JAK support tool easily adjusts from 53 in. to 84 in. and safely supports workloads up to 400 lbs.

The complete T-JAK Support System adjusts from 15" to 108"

kitchen
Cabinets
Drywall Ceilings
Shelving
Deck Building
Light fixtures
Garage Doors
Bay and Garden
Windows
Tub Surrounds
Crown Molding

The T-JAK becomes your hard working helper for many difficult jobs. Do-it-yourselfers and professional remodelers rave about this handy tool!

1-800-662-3557
www.tjak.com

Better-than-Ever
TOOLS
Manufacturers & Distributors of Drywall Products
Viking Leather Products
1-800-444-7908
www.betterthanevertools.com

Drywall Taping Made Easy
Imagine a System that is
- Inexpensive
- Durable
- Easy to Learn
- Easy on You
- NO Blisters
- NO need to roll
- NO need to pick corners
- Save Hours on Every Job
- A Fire Taping Must

"The Cadillac"
Top Quality
Leather Aprons for the Professional Framer
Electrician & Drywaller

Handcrafted in Canada

8106 Highland Place, Vernon BC V1B 3W6
www.betterthanevertools.com
www.vikingleatherproducts.com

where you want to create a line dividing one color from another. Use a dry 1-inch paint brush to apply a thin coat of Tape-Seal to the edge of the tape that touches the surface you intend to paint. Once the gel is dry (15-20 minutes) you can paint the surface as usual. After the paint has dried, carefully remove the tape. (www.perfectpaintlines.com)

RAPID SHARK

The Rapid Shark is the first multi-use utility knife that combines all the tools needed to prepare electrical cable connections in a single compact package. The razor cuts the cable's sheath, the wire-stripping pliers strip the conductor's insulation and then cuts the wire to length. The pliers-like handle locks securely into the body of the knife when not in use and is spring-loaded for easy opening and comfortable cutting. The stripper includes five precision-ground stripping holes for removing insulation from 10- to 18-gauge wire. The Shark comes with five serrated Rapid Edge blades, which have three to five cutting surfaces for reduced friction and longer cutting life. (www.rapidtools.net) **EHT**

SHARK™
RAPID™
OPEN
1.0 1.3 1.6 2.0 2.6 MM
COPPER ONLY
18 16 14 12 10 AWG

TIGER FOAM Insulation

Unleash the Beast on Your Insulation Project

Portable, Disposable, Closed-Cell Polyurethane Foam Insulation Kits

- New Construction / Retrofit
- No power or machine required
- Cavity Fill
- Flotation
- Refrigeration
- Cold Storage
- Highest R-Value
- Moisture Resistance (perm 1.2)
- Metal Buildings
- Pipes within Pipes
- Soundproofing & Vibration
- ASTM E-84 Fire Rated
- Economical and easy to use
- Highway, Bridge and Pipeline
- Boats, Ships, Spas
- 100s of uses…

Visit www.tigerfoam.com for more information
Or call us at: 800-664-0063

Tiger Foam: Because it's a jungle out there!

For Those About To Rock

Handy Drywall Tools for Your Next Project

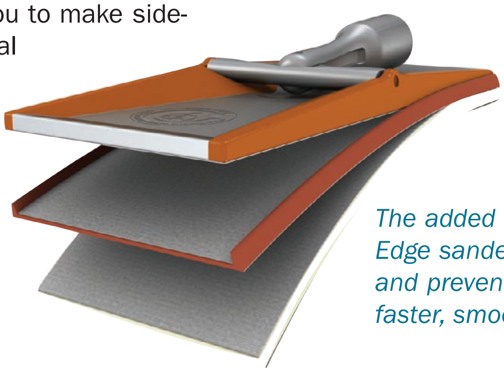
By Tom Matthews

Drywall has taken over. From residential to commercial buildings, gypsum board, commonly called drywall or Sheetrock (which is actually a brand name of USG Corporation), has generally replaced plaster-and-lath walls because it is comparatively easier and faster to install. While properly hanging and finishing drywall takes practice, even a DIY'er can work with the material. It's readily available, reasonably priced, and can be worked with common hand tools. This article highlights a few new tool innovations in the world of drywall, and how they can save time and effort on your next "rocking" project.

FULL CIRCLE SANDERS

It's terribly aggravating to knock a hole in the drywall surface just as you're wrapping up the finishing touches. The new Flex Edge multi-layered sander from Full Circle International has a 9-by-4-inch die-cast aluminum head that is designed to lower the center of gravity. This distributes the pressure for better stability, allowing you to make side-to-side directional changes without worry of flipping the sander, which can damage the wall surface. The Flex Edge sander has two abrasive systems—a loop-backed sheet abrasive and a loop-backed flex foam abrasive. The two abrasive systems are suited to many dryall jobs like finish-sanding inside angles and small areas, as well as finish sanding on the whole wall. As a two-tool system, the Flex Edge sander, when used along with Full Circle's round Radius 360 sander, delviers excellent finish quality on the wall surface. The system is similar to painting a wall with a brush (the flex edge for the corners and detail areas) and a roller (the Radius 360 for speed on the open areas). (www.fullcircleinternational.com)

The round shape of the Radius 360 Sander makes side-to-side movement easy, reducing flips that can gouge th wall surface.



The added pressure of the Flex Edge sander eliminates bumps and prevents stuttering for a faster, smoother finish.

Score More...

With The Only Drywall Tool You Need!

ScoreSlot™ holds tape for safer, faster cuts™
SPEED ROCKER®
SPEED ROCKER SS™
C.H. HANSON
Since 1866 • Tools for Generations™

Pick your choice

SPEED ROCKER SS

3 POSITION, FIXED BLADE KNIFE

- ScorSlot™
  - Holds tape measure hook for safer, faster scoring
  - Positions thumb over blade for easy cuts
- FAST, No screw, blade changes
- Compact design easily fits in hand

RETRACTABLE 3 IN 1 TOOL

- Safer, faster, less fatigue with patented ScorSlot™ thumb rest
- Built-In Keyhole saw for making rough openings
- Built-In Rasp for finer shaping

47% LIGHTER ALUMINUM CONSTRUCTION™

Cutting Edge Technology - The latest innovations to make your job easier

Rugged Construction - Built to stand up to the toughest jobs

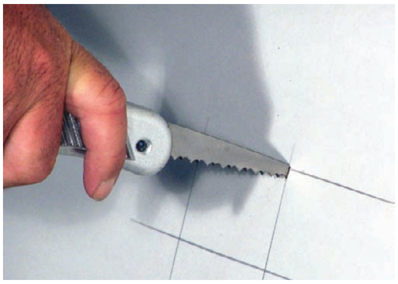
Quality Design - Engineered to application specific requirements

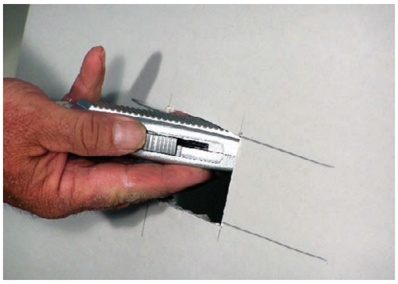
C.H. HANSON®
Since 1866 • Tools for Generations™

View exciting new products from C.H. Hanson at
www.chhanson.com

C.H. HANSON'S SPEEDROCKER

C.H. Hanson's SpeedRocker drywall knife functions as three tools in one. First, it's an ergonomically designed utility knife that has a slot in the handle over the blade where you can insert the end of a tape measure. This time-saving feature allows you to score the drywall as you measure it. The handle also conceals a keyhole saw; just flip it out like a pocket knife to cut rough openings in wallboard for lighting and outlet boxes. The side of the handle also includes a built-in rasp to shape the edges of panels after breaking them along the score line. The SpeedRocker is built with lightweight aluminum housing, and three blades are included. The blades lock into four retractable positions during use. (www.chhanson.com)





The Perfect Cut Out... Uses the Power of Magnets
CENTER MARK
PATENT PENDING
Insert Target
Locate Target
Cut Out Drywall
Remove Cut Out
...for Recessed Lighting
BLIND MARK
US PATENT #6708421
Insert Target
Mark Perimeter
Cut Out Drywall
Remove Cut Out
...for Plastic Electrical Boxes
...Every Time!
Center Mark Exclusively Available at
THE HOME DEPOT
1-800-976-3040
www.blindmark.com
CROREY BUILDERS INC

FLOW
wall system
Innovative Wall Storage Systems

Garage & Hardware

Laundry & Utility

Lawn & Garden

Sports & Recreation

FLOW WALL™ offers a better way to arrange your space, eliminate clutter and increase efficiency anywhere you simply want to make your space FLOW.

The FLOW WALL™ SYSTEM is a fully integrated and expandable slat wall storage system that combines stylish and durable FLOW WALL™ PANELS with a growing assortment of functional FLOW WALL™ STORAGE ACCESSORIES.

Modular and Expandable System

Fully Integrated Design

Strong and Durable

Easy to Install

Maintenance Free

For More Information:
www.flowwall.com

(877) FLOWWALL
(356-9925)

Dealer Inquiries Welcome

E-Z STICK DRYWALL TAPE

E-Z Stick Self-Adhesive Drywall Tape eliminates one full step in the taping and mudding process of drywall. Typically, the installer has to apply a thin skim coat of mud along the tapered joint in which to bed the paper tape. Then a knife is run over the tape to squeeze out any excess mud or air bubbles, and another coat of mud is applied. However, with E-Z Stick the aggressive adhesive on the back of the tape creates a strong bond with the gypsum board, allowing the tape to be covered with as little as two coats of joint compound. The system also includes a special tape dispenser with a water bath to activate the adhesive. And, according to the manufacturer it creates a stronger joint than even fiberglass mesh tape.

To use, first load the E-Z Stick onto the pin of the dispenser, non-adhesive side facing up. Add water to the bath. Run the end of the tape through the flange of the bath and out of the exit opening. Pull out the wet tape and press into the wallboard joint. Wipe down the tape with a towel to remove excess water. After a 10-15 minute drying time, apply the first coat of compound and finish the joint as usual. (www.eztapingsystem.com)

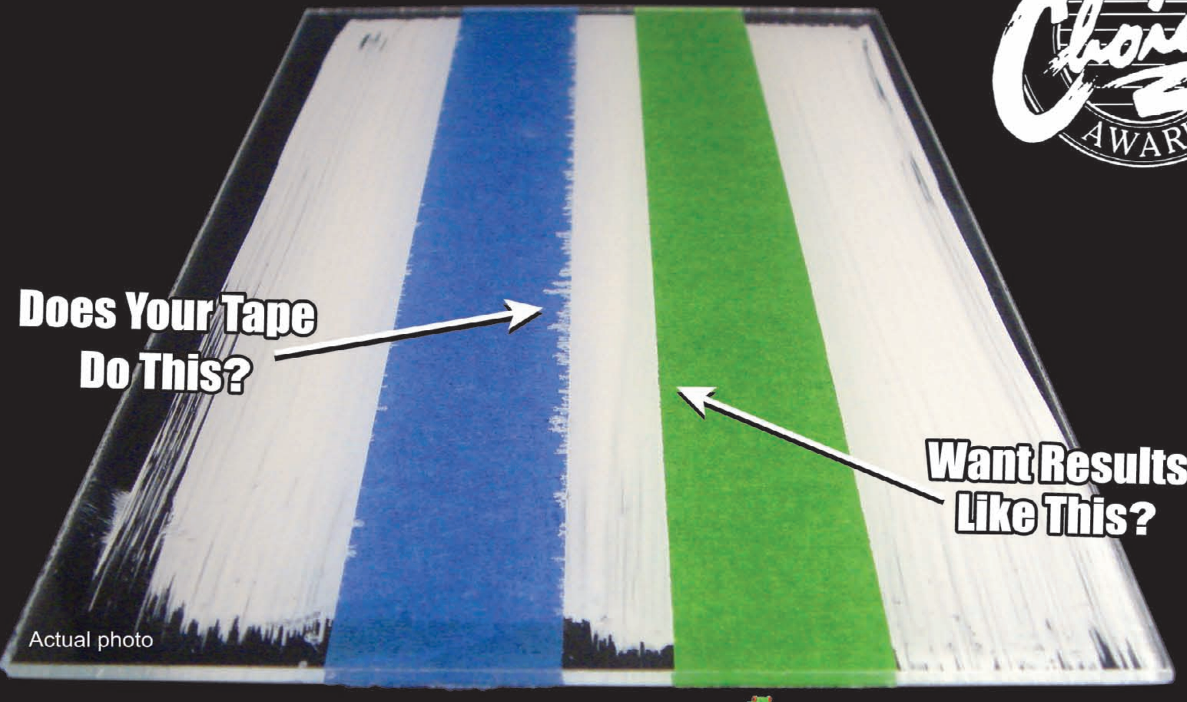
E-Z TAPING SYSTEM®
E-Z STICK
DRYWALL FINISHING TAPE
NO PRE-MUD REQUIRED!

- **Aggressive** adhesive, after wetting, bonds strongly with gypsum board.
- **Quicker** completion time eliminates one full step
- **Preferred** over mesh tape
- **Center** creased for easy corner application
- **Covers** with two coats of joint compound

Contact us for more Information and Samples
E-Z Taping System®, Inc.
Green Bay, WI 54303
1-800-721-8273
Visit our website for more application instructions:
www.eztapingsystem.com

WHY MASK IF YOUR TAPE LEAKS?

RETAILERS' Choice AWARDS


Does Your Tape Do This?
Want Results Like This?
Actual photo

A Leading Brand
Crepe Masking Tape

FROGTAPE.

TRY IT!

FROGTAPE® WITH Paintblock® Technology

FROGTAPE.
TRY IT
PRO PAINTER'S MASKING TAPE
PAINTBLOCK TECHNOLOGY
• Resists-Bleeding
• Resists-Tearing
• Clean Release
Inspired
1"
24mm x 54.8m
1½"
2"

AN INNOVATION IN
PRO PAINTER'S MASKING TAPE

Patented **Frog Tape®** is the ONLY Pro Painter's crepe masking tape with **Paintblock® Technolog**y added to the tape. Paintblock reacts instantly with latex paint giving Frog Tape superior resistance to paint leaking. For more information visit:

WWW.FROGTAPE.COM

Or Call

1.800.FROGTAPE

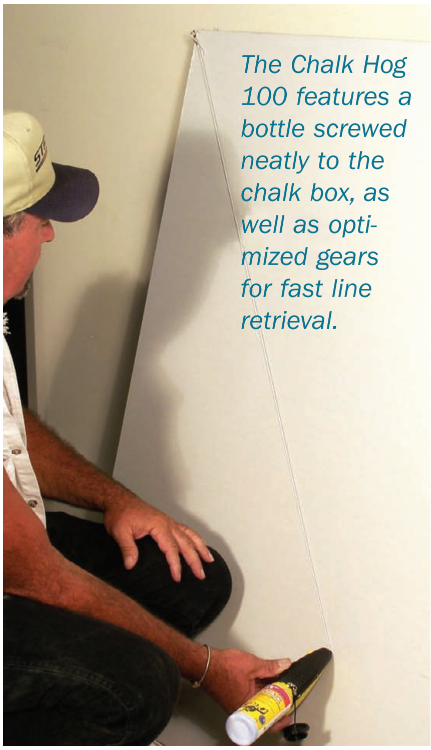
MADE IN USA

Frog Tape® is available nationwide at
fine hardware, paint stores and The Home Depot!

© 2008, Inspired Technologies, Inc.

CHALK HOG AND SUPERPENCIL

C.H. Hanson has greatly improved on the design of the traditional chalk line with the Chalk Hog 100. The chalk box is fed chalk by a bottle screwed directly onto the box, so there's no messy spillage. With the detachable filler cap, the Chalk Hog can be used with or without the 8-ounce bottle attached. One of the most impressive features is the fast string retrieve due to the optimized gears, which makes winding the string much like reeling a fishing line—six times the speed of a standard chalk reel. The high-density, poly-braided cord snaps clean and sharp lines with less chalk, and the hinged two-sided hook makes it easy to anchor the



The Chalk Hog 100 features a bottle screwed neatly to the chalk box, as well as optimized gears for fast line retrieval.

DO IT YOURSELF SOUNDPROOFING

STEP ABOVE™
IMPACT BARRIER

a commercial grade carpet padding designed to reduce footstep & airborne noise

Extends the life and comfort of your carpet
Eco-friendly; 60% recycled materials
Easy to install 4'x 8' sheets
Suspended and on grade floors

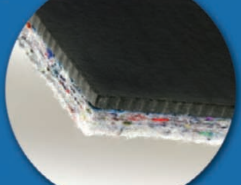
Home Theaters
Recording Studios
Conference Rooms

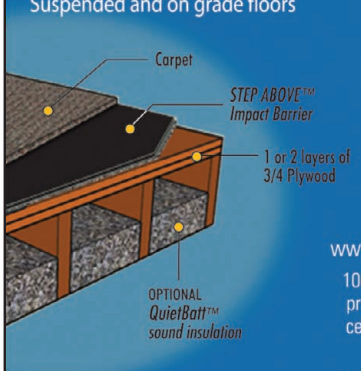
Multi-story dwellings hotels, condos, apartments, commercial, industrial

www. SoundProofFoam.com /DIY
100's of DIY soundproofing & acoustic products & how-to's for walls, floors, ceilings, doors, pipes, boats, vehicles
Knowledgeable in-house staff
In-stock, free shipping in continental US

Mfr by Acoustic Products Division
American Micro Industries, Inc
440 Ramsey Ave. • Chambersburg, PA
AmericanMicroInc.com

toll free 1 877 623-9191
Mon-Thurs 8am-7pm EST
Fri 8am-6pm EST





Carpet
STEP ABOVE™ Impact Barrier
1 or 2 layers of 3/4 Plywood
OPTIONAL QuietBatt™ sound insulation

NailOut

What is NailOut?
Simple... a pneumatic nail extractor. NailOut removes nails with the ease and speed of Air. It's handheld size coupled with pneumatic power makes this tool up to 10 times faster then a cats paw. This tool specializes in removing nails from wood construction connectors and other hard-to-reach places.

Visit www.NailOut.com for all the details!
866-682-3626

• Lasts 7x longer than Carpenter Pencils
• Works without sharpening
• Draw thick or thin lines
• Non-toxic, graphite composite
Made in USA

C.H. Hanson's SuperPencil is made of 100-percent graphite writing material. There's no wood housing, so the entire thing writes like a lead pencil.

string for angled lines. The Chalk Hog even features a built-in pencil sharpener.

Speaking of pencils, C.H. Hanson also offers the SuperPencil, which is made of 100-percent writing material. Made entirely from non-toxic, graphite composition, there is no wood housing; the whole thing writes like a lead pencil. The only reason to sharpen it is to create a finer point. The SuperPencil is flexible to resist breakage and lasts seven times longer than wood-sheathed carpenter's pencils. (www.chhanson.com)

TEXTURE WHEEL
CUSTOM TEXTURE PATTERNS FOR WALLS AND CEILINGS
IN MINUTES!
NEW!
* FITS ALL STANDARD SIZE ROLLER POLES AND 5 GAL, BUCKETS
* NEW CONSTRUCTION OR REMODELS
* FOR DRYWALL, STUCCO, CONCRETE
4 EXCITING NEW PATTERNS !
DUNES
WEAVE
FANTASIA
ORIENTAL
phone: 1-801-940-6010
www.bigdaddystoolz.com

BLIND MARK

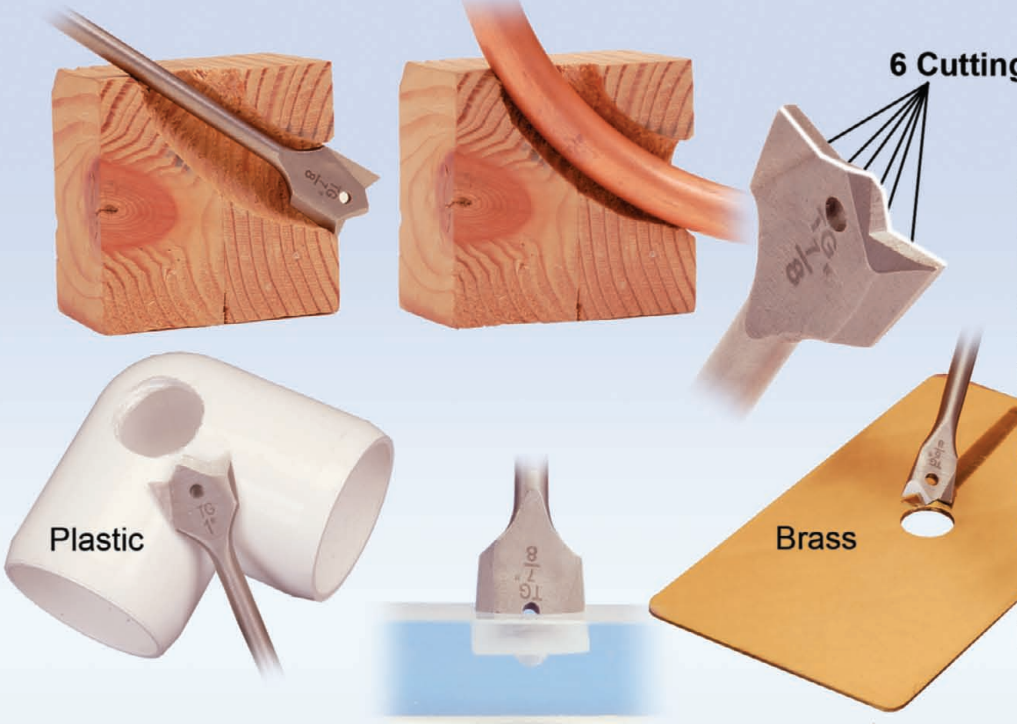
Blind Mark from Crorey Builders, Inc., is an easy-to-use magnetic template for locating electrical boxes in drywall panels without having to take measurements. There are two components to the system: a target and a target locator. Install the rectangular target in the electrical box prior to covering it with drywall. Install the wallboard, and then pass the locator over the area of the panel covering the electrical box. The powerful magnets will attach the rectangular locator to the drywall right over the target. You can then use the locator as a template to mark and cut the hole for the electrical box. Then, pop out the target and move on to the next panel.

CENTER MARK
The Perfect Cut Out Every Time
Siempre un corte perfecto
INSERT TARGET
CUT OUT DRYWALL
REMOVE CUT OUT
COREY

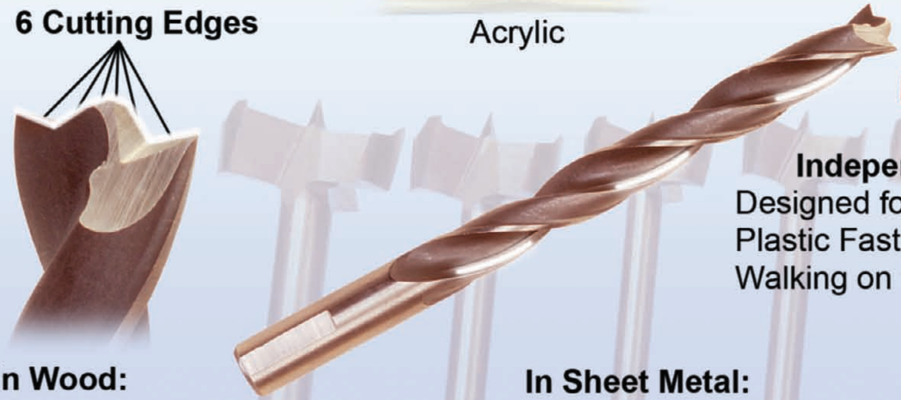
Crorey Builders also offers a similar product called Center Mark, which works in much the same way but is designed for locating cutouts for recessed lighting. (www.blindmark.com) **EHT**

There is a better way...
The Dustless Way!
• Reduce Clean Up Costs
• Improve Worker Safety
• Improve Productivity
• Meet Pending OSHA Guidelines
• Save Time & Money
DustBuddie™
Dustless Technologies®
• Captures 99% of airborne dust
• Attaches quickly & easily
• Fits most hand grinders
• Removeable lip for edge work
Our patented Wet/Dry vacuum is specially designed to capture the extra fine dust created by concrete, stone, drywall and fiberglass. Discover what makes it so great by watch the online videos at dustlesstechnologies.com
NEW!
DustHoodie™
Dustless Technologies®
Floor Sanding System for 7" & 9"Grinders
FlatBoy™
Dustless Technologies®
Hub mounts BELOW flush so you can sand flat. Solid hub prevents sap and adhesives from entering arbor.
NEW!
dustlesstechnologies.com
800.568.3949
Dustless® TECHNOLOGIES

We Put a KIK® in Your Boring Tasks!



The revolutionary **KIK® Spade Bit** has over 30% more cutting surface making them much faster and longer lasting than standard spade bits. There is no protruding tang to bend or break allowing these bits to even bore non-ferrous sheet metals and curved holes too! Tested and Proven Superior by an Independent Lab.



KIK® HS Brad Point

Independent Lab Tested and Proven

Designed for Drilling Sheet Metal, Wood and Plastic Faster, Cleaner with Longer Life and no Walking on the Surface.

In Wood:

- **Approximately 100% Faster** Compared to Common Brad Point
- **40% Faster** Compared to Standard Drill Bits

In Sheet Metal:

- **50% Cleaner** Entry
- Consistently **Round Hole**
- **20% Less Walking**

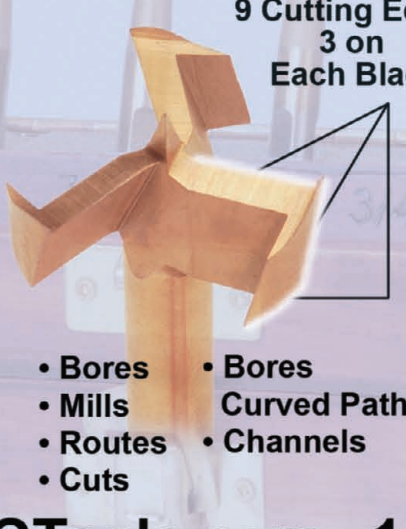
In Acrylic:

- **No cracking** Drilling Acrylic
- **150% Faster** Compared to Standard Drills
- **690% Faster** Than Other Brad Points

KIK® Forstner Bit

Proven Superior by an Independent Lab

Cleaner Entry and Exit



- **Titanium Coated**
- **3-Flat Shank**

Open Head Design for no Clogging
Easy Drilling and Direction Control

- **Bores through Hard Woods 100% Faster** Compared to Standard Forstners
- **Bores**
- **Mills**
- **Routes**
- **Cuts**
- **Bores Curved Paths**
- **Channels**
- **Bores Through Acrylics Cleanly Without Melting** Able to Bore 90 Degree Curved Paths

www.MyTGTools.com   1-800-687-4122

TG® Tools • 1010 Cedar Ave. • St. Charles, IL 60174 • ph 800-687-4122 • fax 630-584-4722

All Decked Out

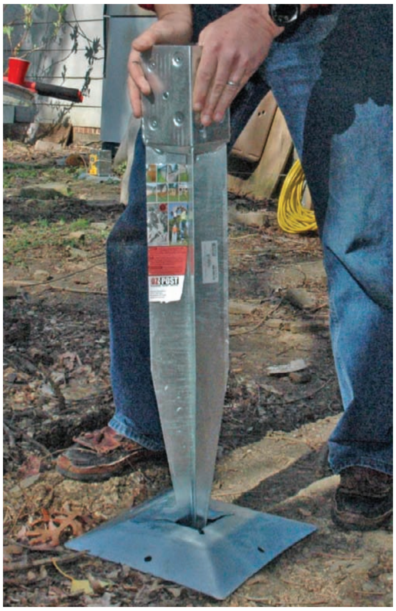
Today's decking products offer homeowners many choices that save work, are friendlier to the environment and allow the homeowner to customize a deck for professional results.

By Hal Jones

Building a deck can be a simple or a complex task, depending on factors such as site location, customization or craftsmanship. In response, Punch Software offers a variety of home and landscape design programs that allow the homeowner or designer to not only show the dimensions of the deck, but also show the deck using 3D modeling that can incorporate the actual terrain, and show the deck or decks as they would appear when finished. For this project we kept it simple, using the deck templates included in the Punch Home Design Platinum Edition. Choices of decking, railing and design layout can be changed, and the homeowner can instantly see how the changes affect the overall appearance of the deck as it relates to the house and surrounding landscape. With the design approved, we were set to begin.

POSTING UP

After tearing down the old deck, our first task was to lay out the foundation post locations and mark those with landscape paint. I used a laser line generator to ensure that the post locations would be square. The traditional deck building technique would be to use concrete piers. Instead we opted for the Oz-Post system that when combined with the Oz-Deck plates, allowed us to set posts in minutes using a Hilti 905 demo hammer to drive in the post systems. When that wasn't large enough to break through a large rock, we used the Bosch Brute Jack Hammer which handled that task with ease. The major concern with using the Oz-Post system is keeping the post receptacle square and level when driving it in. However, in this case, keeping the system square was made easy by the use of a two-way post level. This system offers not only quick installation, but also protects the treated lumber post from ground contact, helping prevent decay and rot.



Oz-Post is seen here used with the Oz-Deck system to create a faster method of installing posts.

MATERIAL MATTERS

For our posts, we chose 4-by-4 pressure treated pine manufactured by Top Choice and available

When lit,
the Solar Cap
provides a soft,
intimate glow.

Solar Tiffany-style California Grape Post Cap

From ordinary to *extraordinary*, our new *post caps* help you see the light.

Solar Tiffany-style Mission Post Cap

Solar Tiffany-style Sunflower Post Cap

Round Convertible Stainless Post Cap Light

Square Convertible Copper Post Cap Light

Available in a wide range of materials and styles, Maine Ornamental's innovative products will transform your deck from ordinary to extraordinary. Our Solar and Convertible Post Caps are examples of the unique, yet practical touches you can add to your outdoor project with Maine Ornamental. Design a deck that's all your own with Maine Ornamental outdoor accessories.

MAINE™ ORNAMENTAL

866.910.9446
www.postcaps.com/eht

through your local Lowe's Home Improvement Store. For joists, beams and stair stringers, Top Choice was selected for its consistent quality and lack of defects. If you want your deck to be straight and level, you will save yourself time by choosing quality lumber that has few, if any defects. Nothing is more frustrating than realizing you have installed a joist into a deck frame that has a flaw on the nailing surface which your deck boards will attach to. This is my first building experience with composite decking, but my guess is that once the deck boards heat up in the summer sun, they will become flexible and will conform to flaws in the joists. Prevent waves in your deck surface by using good quality lumber, and inspect all sides for flaws and straightness. Also, the deck lumber we removed from the old deck was the older pressure-treated formula. Today's pressure-treated lumber is a safer formula.

Top Choice Lumber as seen here is being used in the deck's construction.

One of the products available that simplifies stair building is the Universal Stair Bracket (USB) available from GoPro Construction. The USB allows the builder to select the rise over run for the individual project using its brackets, which are premarked for various applications. The markings make assembly much easier for novice builders. The USB system also allows a 2-by-6 stringer to be used rather than a 2-by-12. By using the smaller dimensional lumber, the builder saves cost and conserves precious resources. The Universal Stair Bracket can be

BUILD A DECK IN ONE DAY!

POST HOLES ARE HISTORY

HOW TO BUILD A DECK

DON'T DIG HOLES . . . . USE OZ-DECK™!

DVD INCLUDES BONUS FOOTAGE OF OZ-RAILING INSTALLATION

ULTRA FAST INSTALLATION
NO ATTACHING TO HOUSE
NO HEAVY LIFTING
NO CONCRETE

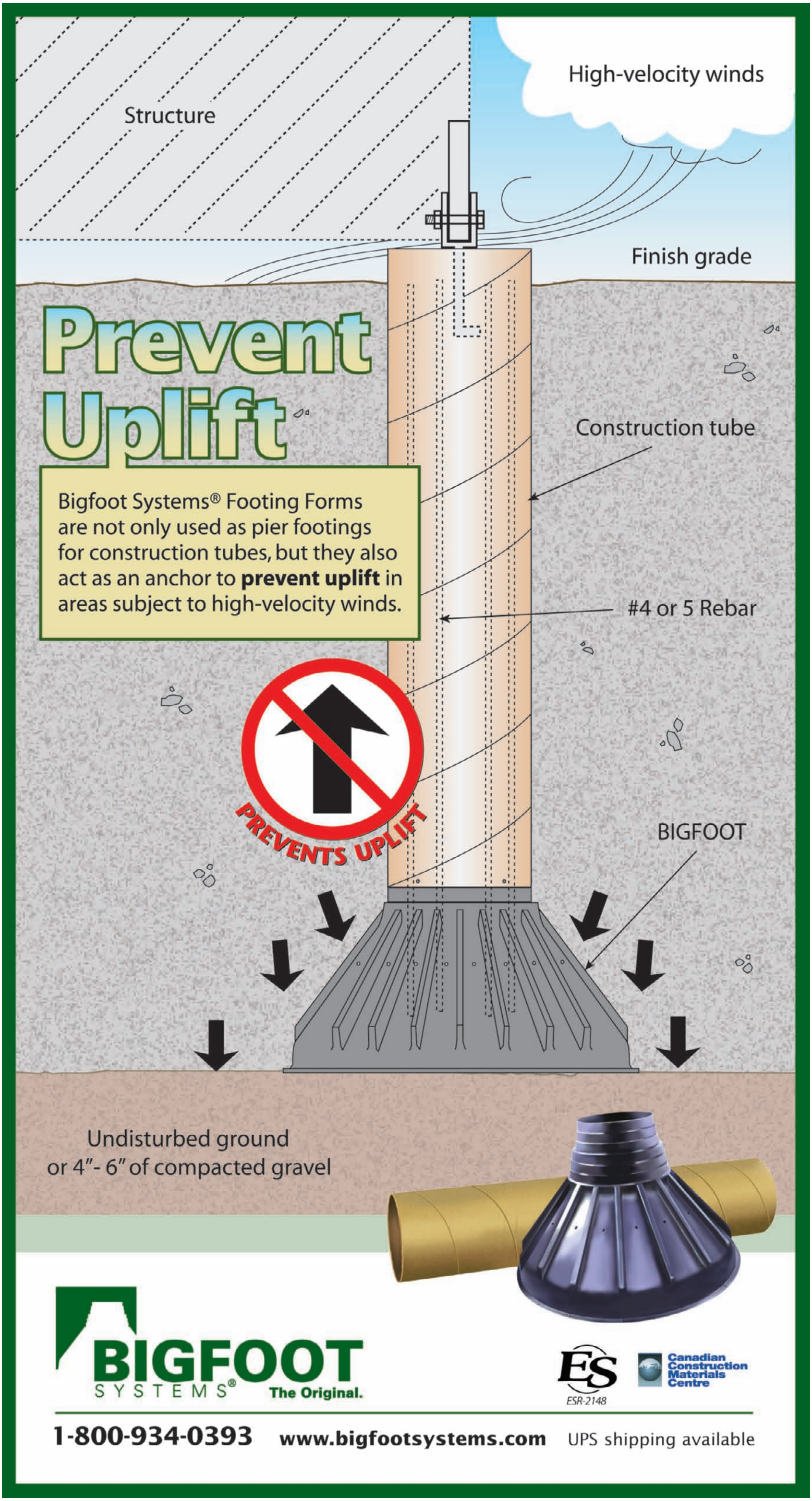
NEW

OZ-DECK deck foundation system

New 30 Minute Step By Step DVD
Only $9.99 Including Shipping & Handling

To Order Visit Us Online At www.Oz-Post.com
Call (866)422-0751 Or Email DIY@Oz-Post.com
Oz-Post™ Is The World Wide Leader In Post Support Technology.
Build On Saturday And Enjoy On Sunday!

- DRIVABLE FOUNDATIONS FOR DECKS, RAMPS, SHEDS AND MORE
- MEETS OR EXCEEDS BUILDING CODES.
- GREAT FOR AREAS WITH ROCKS, ROOTS AND DEEP FROST LINES
- SUITABLE FOR CONTACT WITH ACQ TREATED LUMBER
- OFFERS UP LIFT, DOWN LOAD AND LATERAL LOAD STRENGTH


Structure
High-velocity winds
Finish grade
Prevent Uplift
Construction tube
#4 or 5 Rebar
PREVENTS UPLIFT
BIGFOOT
Undisturbed ground
or 4″- 6″ of compacted gravel
BIGFOOT SYSTEMS® The Original.
ES
ESR-2148
Canadian Construction Materials Centre

Bigfoot Systems® Footing Forms are not only used as pier footings for construction tubes, but they also act as an anchor to **prevent uplift** in areas subject to high-velocity winds.

1-800-934-0393 www.bigfootsystems.com UPS shipping available

Tips for Installing Footings

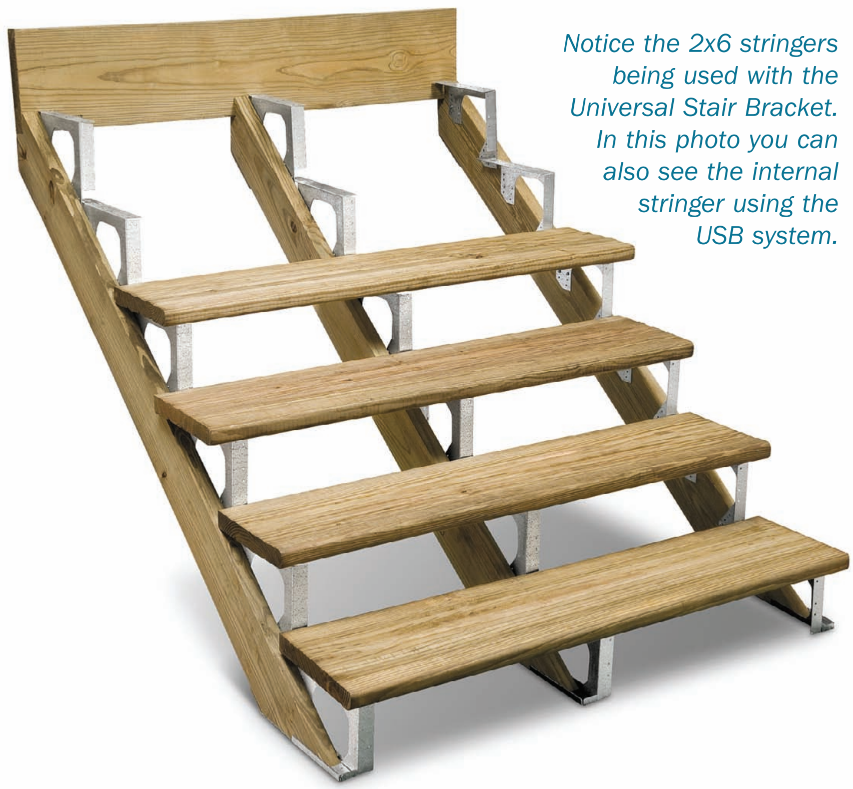
Here are some useful tips to ensure your footings are installed properly and the integrity of your project is maintained:

- You should always make sure that a qualified engineer has designed the footing you are using and that it has been tested by an accredited evaluation firm.
- Select a footing that can carry the weight of your new construction and has met all the proper building codes.
- Ensure you are placing the footing form on solid ground. The more solid the ground the less likely movement will occur.
- Install your footings 4-6 inches below the frost line to avoid potential movement. If you are in an area without frost, the footing form should be placed two feet in the ground and then backfilled to hold it in place when it is being filled with concrete.
- Rebar is an important part of installation. Pour concrete into the footing system first, insert three or four number 4 or 5 rebar rods into the tube. To determine the length of rebar, measure the distance from the top of the tube to the air holes located on the Bigfoot Systems® Footing Form before you place the system in the excavation and backfill.
- Don't risk having to redo the job, do it right the first time!

Visit our web site www.bigfootsystems.com to view a complete set of our installation instructions.

used on interior stringers, allowing composite decking to be used without sub-treads of wood being used. Where our specifications for Fiberon decking called for stringer separations of no greater than 16 inches, we added two internal stringers to achieve the 48-inch width of our stairs, and that gave us 12 inches of separation between each stringer.

For the decking itself, Fiberon's Tropics slotted 6-inch decking in the mahogany color was chosen. The decking color mimicked color variations found in natural lumber, and even the texture effectively mimicked tropical woods. One of the most attractive features of composite decking is its consistency and lack of flaws,



Notice the 2x6 stringers being used with the Universal Stair Bracket. In this photo you can also see the internal stringer using the USB system.

If we did actually create
the perfect screw...
we'd probably refuse to accept it.

We're a touch obsessive about fasteners.

At GRK anything less than ÜberGrade™ simply won't do. That's a tall order, but that's who we are. Sure...our fasteners might cost a little more, but they're worth it. They work faster, harder and longer than the so-called "pro-grade" alternatives. Ultimately GRK Fasteners™ will save you time, and that means they make you money. And we know how obsessive you can be about that.

GRKFASTENERS™
ÜberGrade™

THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO, CANADA
800/263-0463 - GRKFASTENERS.COM

© 2007 GRK Fasteners

ARMSTRONG'S WOOD STAINS

Long Lasting, Easy to Apply

Environmentally Friendly Wood Stain Products

ARMSTRONG'S
WOOD STAIN
for
WOOD DECKS
FENCES
&
SIDING
OIL BASE FORMULA

Manufacturers of VOC-Compliant, Oil-Based Wood Finishes

Photos compliments of Alan Broom, www.shinebritellc.com

DIRECT INTERNET SALES

For FREE sample cans, just let us know.

(800) 916-8211 • www.armclark.com

BoWrench
Deck Tool
Hands FREE holding POWER!
"...an exceptionally handy tool." H. Kimball, Fine Homebuilding
BoWrench

The BoWrench from Cepco Tool is a great tool to bend stubborn deck members into position. Plus, it locks in place, freeing your hands to fasten the lumber.

even in longer lengths of up to 20 feet used on this deck. The Fiberon Tropics Series comes pre-grooved and accepts a variety of invisible fastening systems. The Phantom Fastener system is made to work with this series and is a fine system, but the homeowner chose a new biscuit system.

The Invisifast Biscuit from MM Products, a clear biscuit made of Lexan for durability. The biscuit systems used on decks work the same as the biscuits used in woodworking. Except on decking, the biscuits join the lumber by using screws instead of glues used in woodworking and furniture making. We were pleased with the speed of installation using the Invisifast Biscuits, but were even more impressed by the strength of the system. The biscuits are clear, allowing the underlying wood to show through, minimizing their visibility when viewed from the top. Another advantage of the biscuit system is that it allows you to remove individual boards without cutting lumber; just remove the screws, which are easily accessible from the top side of the deck.

RAILING SYSTEM CAPS IT OFF

For the railing system, Fortress Iron basket pattern was chosen along with the Oz-Railing System. The Oz-Railing system attaches to the top side of the deck, simplifying installation. The system installs quickly, merely requiring a hole to be drilled into the 4-by-4 post base so it fits over the metal post, on the metal plate, that attaches to the deck. After inserting the 4-by-4 posts onto the plate, fasten the plate to the posts using four lag screws, and install the posts with the Oz-Railing system attached to the top side of the deck with six lag screws. Cutting notches into the decking boards is not required, simply screw the base plate to the top of the deck, and make sure you have sufficient blocking underneath the deck surface to accept the lag screws and distribute the load.

All that was left to finish the railing was to attach the Fortress Iron railing system to the posts using a simple metal receptacle that is sized to accept the predrilled top and bottom rails. We installed the bottom rail first. The rail is predrilled to accept Fortress Iron's variety of spindle shapes, so this was simply a matter of recreating the pattern we built using the railing designer program on the Fortress website. Insert the spindles in the order you choose. Lay the top

BoWrench®
Deck Tool
by Cepco Tool Company
The only 1-MAN, HANDS FREE, Self-Locking device for bending warped boards and installing tongue & groove materials!
"an exceptionally handy tool!"
Herrick Kimball, Fine Homebuilding
MEMBER TESTED AND RECOMMENDED HANDYMAN
SIMPLE & RUGGED
PATENT PROTECTED
INSUL-KNIFE®
Multi Purpose Insulation Knife
CEPCO TOOL COMPANY
800-466-9626 www.cepcotool.com

rail over the spindles making sure the spindles rest securely in the correct holes, then fasten the top rail to the post using the metal receivers that fit neatly over the ends of the top rail. This completes the railing. The finished product has the look of a custom-made, professionally installed railing system and the added security of the Oz-Railing system to keep the posts in place.

As a finishing touch, we chose the Maine Ornamental solar post caps in a pewter color. The pewter color matched the black railings, and the post caps maintained a classic look even during the daytime. We capped all of the posts with these solar lights so that after the sun went down, the deck could still be enjoyed without the harsh lighting of the old flood lights that are so often used in outdoor lighting. The solar lights sufficiently light the deck without being overpowering. They also add a measure of safety when entering the house from the deck after dark, as the lights come on automatically at dusk. Another feature the homeowner liked was the ability to turn the lights off using a switch located on the light housing. Because sometimes you just want to enjoy the ambience of the starlight alone. Maine Ornamental must have thought of that also. **EHT**

Maine Ornamental's Solar Post Cap in the pewter finish is used in our decking project.

PRODUCT SOURCES

Cepco Tool
www.cepcotool.com
1-800-466-9626

Fiberon Decking
1-704-463-7120
www.fiberondecking.com

Fortress Iron Railings and Fences
1-866-323-4766
www.fortressiron.com

GoPro Construction Solutions, LLC
1-877-577-4142
www.GoProConstruction.com

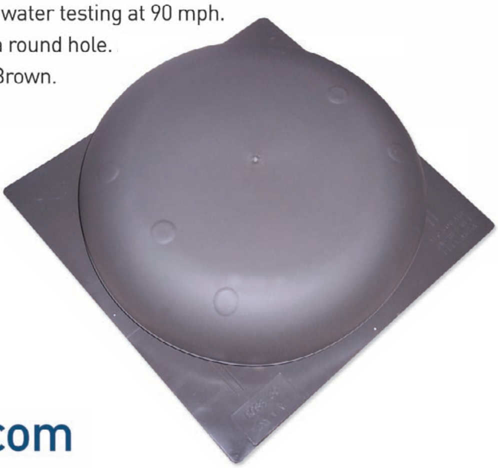
Maine Ornamental
1-866-780-3507
www.postcaps.com

MM Products Invisifast
1-866-766-9427
www.invisifast.com

Oz-Post
1-866-422-0751
www.oz-post.com

Punch Software
1-800-365-4832
www.Punchsoftware.com

TopChoice Lumber
available at Lowe's Home Improvement Centers
www.lowes.com



Ross 150 Roof Vent™

- 150 SQ. IN. NFA (net free area). The **Most** NFA of all static roof vents in the market.
- Priced competitively-save up to 10-15%.
- Made of high impact Polypropylene with heat stabilizers and UV inhibitors throughout.
- Virtually indestructible. No bending of flange or denting of dome.
- Will **NOT** leak.
- Suitable on any pitch from 3/12 to 16/12.
- No sharp edges-safer to handle.
- Larger nailing flange for ease of installation.
- Passed wind testing at 110 mph and water testing at 90 mph.
- Requires a square hole rather than a round hole.
- Available in Weatherwood. Black & Brown.
- Patent Pending.

ROSS
Manufacturing, LLC

tel: 830-643-0175
fax: 830-643-0178
www. RossMfg.com

HOT PRODUCTS

STRIP PAINT WITH INFRARED HEAT

Extreme How-To has touched on this technology in past issues, but testing the Speedheater Infrared Paint Remover provided our first chance to experience it first-hand. The 120-volt Speedheater tool, which is about the size of a laundry iron, uses infrared radiation and heat to soften paint quickly and efficiently, making it easy to scrape off. Operation couldn't be simpler; just switch on the tool, and the special heat coils take only a couple of minutes to heat up. Once heated, place the Speedheater over the section to be stripped. After about 30 seconds the paint begins to smoke and bubble. When that happens, remove the Speedheater and scrape away the paint, which slides away like cake icing. The heating/scraping process had no trouble stripping ancient paint back to bare wood on our test subject (an old shop cabinet), and with minimal elbow grease. By stripping to the bare wood, painting can start from scratch using a deep-penetrating primer for the best topcoat adhesion. Having recently refinished a kitchen full of cabinets using a messy combination of sanding and chemical stripping, I wish I had this tool at my disposal for that job. Stripping paint with the Speedheater is a faster, easier and cleaner method to get the job done. The heater comes with a carrying case, support bar and an instructional DVD. For more information, visit www.eco-strip.com or call (703) 476-6222.

STRIPPING KIT FOR DUMMIES

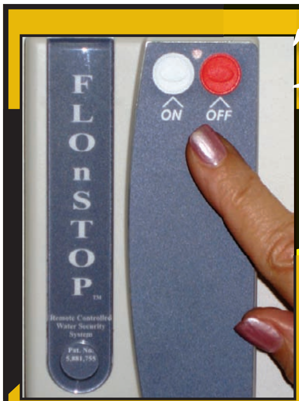
The Stripping Kit for Dummies easily removes old paint, varnish, shellac, polyurethane and lacquer—even multiple coats with simple brushing. The Circa 1850 Furniture Stripper from Swing Paints is a non-flammable, low odor formula that works in just 5 minutes. Because it contains no water or harsh chemicals, it is safe to use on fine furniture and antiques. It will not disturb the wood's natural patina or raise the grain, nor will it harm glue joints or veneers. The stripping process works almost instantly after the stripper is applied, melting the old finish which you simply brush away. There's no waiting, sanding or difficult scraping that could damage or gouge the wood. The stripper requires no afterwash or neutralizing, so the piece is ready to finish as soon as it's dry. The Stripping Kit for Dummies includes a quart of Circa 1850 furniture stripper, stripping gloves, a stripping brush, a maple wood scraper, a stripping tool, stripping pads and easy-to-follow instructions to guide you through your project—all for under $25. For more info, contact Swing Paints at (514) 932-2157 or www.circa1850.com.

Stripping FOR DUMMIES
8 piece kit
Circa 1850
FURNITURE STRIPPER
REMOVES OLD PAINT, VARNISH, URETHANE AND LACQUER
NON-FLAMMABLE

BERNZOMATIC FAT BOY

BernzOmatic introduces the Fat Boy, an environmentally-friendly fuel cylinder that features 20 percent more fuel than standard 14.1-ounce fuel cylinders for longer run times. Fat Boy propane cylinders include patent-pending Green Key technology, which is a simple device that, when inserted into an empty propane cylinder, releases all remaining fumes, effectively depressurizing the cylinder so it can be recycled by the consumer's local steel recycler. Additionally, the cylinders have a 25 percent height reduction for greater accessibility in tight spaces. To learn more, visit www.bernzomatic.com or call 1-800-654-9011.

PROPANE
BERNZOMATIC
FAT BOY
20% MORE FUEL
Net Wt 16.92 oz (479 g)
GREEN KEY
YOUR KEY TO BEING GREEN
DANGER
• EXTREMELY FLAMMABLE
• FIRE/EXPLOSION HAZARD
• CONTENTS UNDER PRESSURE
• CARBON MONOXIDE HAZARD
Read and follow important safety warnings on side label


FLOnSTOP
ON
OFF

Turn Off

Your Main Water Valve Each Time You Leave Home

Water Damage
Can Happen Anytime

• **FLO n STOP™** a new patented wireless remote controlled water security system, when activated, will prevent water damage from broken pipes, bursting hoses or leaky plumbing fixtures while you are away.

• The convenient wireless ON/OFF Button Pad is placed by the entrance door. There is no hard wiring and installation is simple with the **FLO n STOP™** System.

• Each time you leave your home, Push the Off Button and all water is turned off so you never come back to a flood. Upon your return, Push the ON Button and all water is conveniently restored.

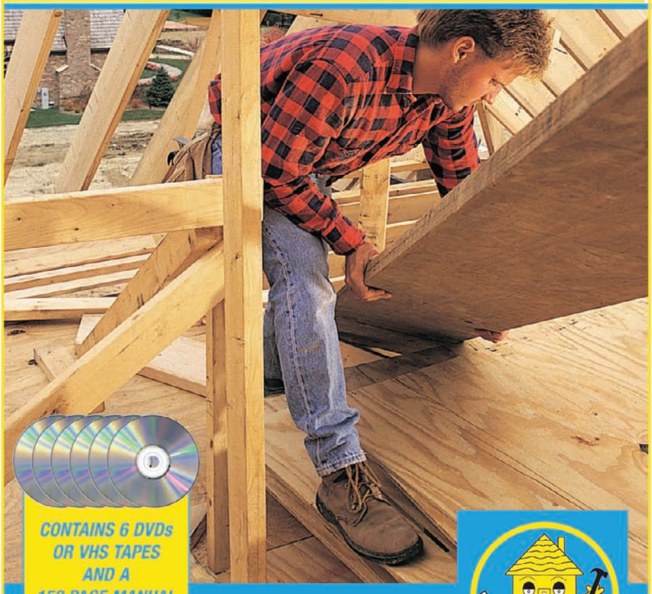
• Water damage can happen at anytime, whether you are away 5 minutes, 5 hours or 5 months, so it is advised to turn your water off each time you leave your dwelling with a simple push of a button by your front door.

www.flo-n-stop.com
800-757-2990

Visit Our Booth 38311 at The National Hardware Show®

No Experience Required!

Build a Home of Your Own



CONTAINS 6 DVDs OR VHS TAPES AND A 150 PAGE MANUAL

Your first step to becoming a professional home builder or renovator begins here...

Call Toll Free:
1-866-979-9600
Email:shbs@bellsouth.net
www.southernhomebuildingseminars.com

SOUTHERN HOMEBUILDING SEMINARS, LLC

Advertisers

Agri-Fab	17
American Micro Industries, Inc.	66
Armstrong-Clark	75
Backyard America	31
Better Life Technology LLC.	5
Better-Than-Ever Tools	58
Big Daddy Toolz	67
Big Green Egg.	40
BigFoot Systems	73
C.H. Hanson	61
Cepco Tool Company	76
Crorey Builders Inc	62
Drill Doctor	36, 37
Dustless Technologies.	68
E-Z Taping System, Inc.	64
FLO n STOP	79
FLOW WALL	63
Frog Tape	65
General Tools & Instruments	50, 51
Goddard Manufacturing Co.	49
Gorilla Glue	35
GRK Fasteners	74
HandiSolutions	12
Hannel	24
Hyde Tools, Inc.	57
Hydro-Sil.	39
IceBlox Inc..	41
Jack's Small Engines	26
JNK Products	19
Knee Blades.	31
Kwik Corner	48
Ladder Saver	32
Lafarge	4
Lam-Hammer	32
Life Industries Corp.	38
Little Beaver	33
Lumber Liquidators	6, 80
Maine Ornamental	71
Mapei	2, 3, BC
Maxus	21
Mountain Home Building Products	80
MP global products L.L.C.	11
NailOut.	66
Outdoor Power Parts	25
Oz-Post.	72
PexSupply.com	27
Prest-On	55
Rapid Tools	IFC, 1
Red Devil, Inc.	9
Rheem	7
Ross Mfg	77
Salter Industries	10
Schluter Systems	47
Skil	15
Southern Homebuidling Seminars	79
Sticky Ass Glue.	45
Striker Construction Pencil.	6
SuperPages.com.	23
Swanson	13
TG Tools.	53, 69
Tiger Foam	59
T-Jak	58
Wall Control	56
WindsorONE	34
Wolmanized Wood	IBC
Wonder Paint	54

HardWood Soft Prices!
www.lumberliquidators.com
LUMBER LIQUIDATOR$®
HARDWOOD FLOORING FOR LESS!
1-800-FLOORING

MOUNTAIN HOME BUILDING PRODUCTS
"A Leading Distributor of Log Home Products"
800-490-3695
Chinking • Caulking • Stain • Interior Finishes
Preservatives • Tools • Fasteners • Wood Cleaners
Lighting • Rustic Game Tables • Siding & More
Secure Online Ordering
www.MountainHomeBuildingProducts.com
Enter the code LHE and Receive $10 Off

MOUNTAIN HOME
BUILDING PRODUCTS
Nationwide Distributor of
Sashco
Preserve your dream

Get the wood that Dean Johnson uses: Wolmanized® wood

"Wolmanized® wood has long been a respected brand – I've used it on my TV show for 20 years – and it has earned its good reputation."

For decks, fences, landscaping, and other backyard projects, one brand has stood out for decades. Today's Wolmanized® Residential Outdoor® wood offers you long-lasting lumber that is backed by a lifetime limited warranty* and the Good Housekeeping Seal. It's real wood, with all of the beauty, construction features, and environmental advantages of real wood.

LIMITED WARRANTY TO CONSUMERS
Good Housekeeping
Promises
REPLACEMENT OR REFUND IF DEFECTIVE

When choosing treated wood for your project, choose the grade of lumber that best suits your needs and look for wood treated for your intended use – ground contact or above ground. Most of all, choose the brand that you and Dean Johnson can trust: Wolmanized® Residential Outdoor® wood. The producers of Wolmanized® wood follow quality control standards which are monitored by accredited independent inspection agencies.

GENUINE
WOLMANIZED®
RESIDENTIAL
OUTDOOR®
WOOD
®

Wood Treated Right™

AUTHENTIC
WOLMANIZED®
L^3
RESIDENTIAL
OUTDOOR®
WOOD
®

Wood Treated Right™

Dean Johnson, host of TV's long-running home improvement show, *Hometime*

**** See complete warranty details on the website. You'll also find useful construction tips, building plans, and help in locating a nearby dealer.***

Wolmanized and *Outdoor* are registered trademarks of Arch Wood Protection, Inc.

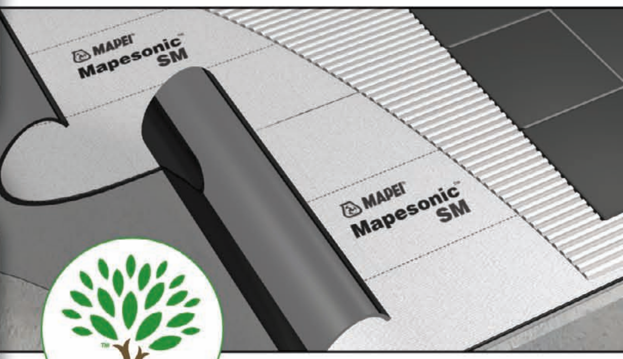
www.wolmanizedwood.com

A sound investment for a sound environment

Mapesonic™ SM

Sound-control and crack-isolation membrane

- ☑ Reduces transmission of airborne sounds: voices, radio, television and music
- ☑ Reduces transmission of impact sounds: footsteps, dropped items and moving furniture
- ☑ Prevents substrate cracks up to 3/8" (10 mm) from transmitting through mortar, tile or stone, and grout



GREEN INNOVATION

Mapesonic SM is developed with "green innovation" and is LEED-compliant, helping to contribute valuable points toward LEED-certified projects.

1-800-42-MAPEI (1-800-426-2734) • www.mapei.com

MAPEI®

TECHNOLOGY YOU CAN BUILD ON™